

JEWS IN AMERICAN WARS

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JEWS IN AMERICAN WARS

By
J. GEORGE FREDMAN
and
LOUIS A. FALK

JEWISH WAR VETERANS OF THE U. S.
276 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

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FOREWORD

THE war which today has engulfed the whole of humanity is a war fashioned by Adolf Hitler and the German military aristocracy. It is a total war in which there can be no alternative for us other than total victory. For only through total victory can we hope to keep safe those human values upon which our civilization rests.

Never in the history of man has a war been fought for higher stakes or with deadlier weapons. The toll of human life claimed by modern engines of death staggers the imagination. But even greater is the moral havoc wrought by the deadliest weapon of all time, the weapon of propaganda used by the Nazis with such fatal efficiency in France, in Holland, in Poland, and in Belgium to undermine the people's will and paralyze their resistance.

The world of tomorrow will remember the cruel suffering of the Jews under Nazi domination and also that Hitler selected the Jews as his first victim. It will realize that he was moved not merely by hatred but by the fear that Jewish ideals, which are an integral part of our Judeo-Christian civilization, are the greatest obstacle to the success of his barbaric "New Order."

The world of tomorrow will, let us hope, forget the vicious lies with which Hitler has attempted to degrade the Jews in the eyes of their neighbors and understand that these lies were merely another Nazi weapon to confuse, corrupt and divide the civilized nations. But today, in the midst of

war, anti-Jewish propaganda is a danger to the United States, and our best protection is the truth.

It is out of a desire to spread the truth that this book has been written. The military contribution of Jews to the up-building of our nation is too little known and we believe it important at this time to retell the story of the patriotism of the Jew, not to impress our fellow Americans with the virtues of Jews, but because the facts of American history are the best answer to the libels which endanger the unity of our country.

We wish to express our deeply felt thanks to the Jewish Welfare Board and particularly its Army and Navy Public Relations Committee, of which Milton Weill is Chairman, composed of the American Jewish Committee, Anti-Defamation League of the B'nai Brith, American Jewish Congress, Jewish Labor Committee and Jewish War Veterans of the U. S., for making available to us their records of the current war; to Morris Fine for contributing statistical material on World War I; to Harold J. Jonas for checking historical facts and editing; and particularly to Sidney Wallach and Norton Belth for their invaluable contributions and patient guidance and encouragement in the completion of this book.

J. G. F.

L. A. F.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 13, 1938.

Gentlemen:

The American people need no reminder of the service which those of Jewish faith have rendered our nation. It has been a service with honor and distinction. History reveals that your people have played a great and commendable part in the defense of Americanism during the World War and prior wars, and have contributed much in time of peace toward the development and preservation of the glory and romance of our country and our democratic form of government.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Franklin D. Roosevelt". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed text of the letter.

Jewish War Veterans of the United States,
276 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N. Y.

I

A NEW NATION IS BORN

THE American Colonies in the seventeen-sixties were filled with the excitement of a nation coming into being. Once merely the overseas projection of European powers, the colonies were permeated by a new, independent common interest. American colonials were feeling their own power, impatient at the restrictions imposed by England. Pulses quickened at the thought of independence. The air was charged with hope, with talk of a new nation built on a pattern such as Europe had never known.

In these colonies, amid a population of three million, scattered along the Atlantic coast, there were some 2,000 Jews, whose families, like those of most of the other Colonists, had fled from Europe, to escape religious, economic or political oppression.

It is not surprising if among all those in whom the blood leaped high at the possibility of independence, none were more thrilled than the Jews. Many of them had vivid recollections of a history of expulsion, persecution, torture and degradation. To none did the appeal of the American Declaration of Independence ring more challengingly, than to the Jews. No wonder that Dr. Benjamin Rush of Philadelphia, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence wrote that "in the Colonies all of the Jews are Whigs."

Nor was the history of the Jews in America a recent or casual one. There had been Jews on the voyage of discovery by Christopher Columbus; the voyage itself was aided by Spanish Jews, and Jewish map and instrument makers made such hazardous undertakings possible. Jews had been in Brazil and had settled in the Islands of the West Indies. The first Jews in New Amsterdam arrived in the summer of 1654. Jews had appeared in other parts of the North American mainland even earlier than that. It was in the blood of these wanderers to reach out for equality of free men, to dream of a land of liberty in which they might share with their Christian fellow citizens equal opportunities and equal obligations.

But the way was not without its difficulties. A restriction imposed by the unfriendly Governor Stuyvesant in New Amsterdam which they could least endure was one providing that Jews shall "remain exempt from the general training and guard duty, on condition that each male person over sixteen and under sixty contribute . . . sixty-five stivers every month."

These early Jewish settlers had hoped to reside in a country where they could stand up alongside their Christian neighbors and, with them, share the hazards of defense, as well as the responsibilities of peace. The lurking Indian made no distinction between Christian and Jew. But to the Jew the little Dutch settlement clustering on the tip of Manhattan Island seemed to hold infinite promise as part of a liberal Holland. And so it was not long before the handful of New Amsterdam Jews, under the leadership of Asser Levy and Jacob Barsimson demanded and secured from the Dutch authorities the right to stand guard at the stockade of New Amsterdam.

Asser Levy, the first fighting Jew in the New World, appears to have been a determined and admirable character. Having won his point, he mounted guard duty with his fellows and probably passed many a watchful hour peering over the stockades into the wilderness of Manhattan. In his mind a principle was involved. Within a short time he made his stand known: "Asser Levy, a Jew, appears in Court; requests to be admitted a burgher; claims that such ought not be refused him as he keeps watch and ward like other Burghers; showing a Burgher certificate from the city of Amsterdam that the Jew is a Burgher there." New Amsterdam officialdom met his plea with surprised stares. He was turned down at every point, until Peter Stuyvesant realized that Asser meant to stick to his guns, in a political as well as an actual sense, and on April 21, 1657, Jews were admitted to citizenship. Asser won another victory.

Anita Lebeson, the historian, calls him "a bold, spirited butcher," and reminds us, thus, that Asser Levy filled the honorable post of shohet, probably the first in the Colonies. At that time, the office was much more important in the Jewish community than it has since become. Asser was obviously as deft in cutting an animal carcass as he was in slicing through official red tape.

Before long it was commonplace to find Jews serving in the armed forces of the Colonies. At the outbreak of the French and Indian War, Isaac Myers of New York called a town meeting at the Rising Sun Inn and organized a company of men of which he was chosen captain. Joseph Simon figured in a battle with the Indians at Bloody Run in 1763. Aaron Hart was with the army invading Canada. Michael Franks of Captain van Braam's company and Jacob Myer

of Captain Mercer's company are mentioned in Washington's journal of the expedition across the Alleghanies.

By the time the movement for American independence began, the more than 2,000 Jews were already deeply rooted in their new homes. From Georgia in the South, where Sephardic Jews had introduced viniculture, to Massachusetts in the north, where Puritan thought and philosophy were heavily underlaid with Hebraic ideals, Jewish contributions were being made to all sectors of American life. In Rhode Island, Jews were engaged in a variety of pursuits, from soap-making to whaling, from manufacture of sperm oil products to shipping. Part of the success of Newport was due to Jewish energies. Aaron Lopez alone had more than thirty ships engaged in coastal and overseas trade. In New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, in fact in every colony, we find evidence of individual Jews who were helping to build the social and economic foundations upon which the structure of liberty was to be reared.

In fact the movement of American independence found a source of inspiration in the Bible. The colonists who had crossed the Atlantic likened themselves to the Israelites who had traversed the Red Sea to reach the Promised Land. They had fought the Indians as the Twelve Tribes had struggled against the Canaanites. The Rev. Ezra Stiles, President of Yale College, liked to call America the "New Israel." In a sermon in 1775, President Samuel Langdon of Harvard told the Massachusetts Congress that the Hebrew government (as described in the Bible) was "a perfect Republic." Thomas Paine, in his *Common Sense*, pointed to the Prophet Samuel's rebuke of Israel for desiring a king as a Divine "protest against monarchical government." The Rev. Jonathan Mayhew of Boston argued that "God gave

Israel a king in his anger because they had not sense and virtue enough to like a free commonwealth and have Himself for their King." One American satirist achieved great popularity by writing a new Chronicles in biblical style about the Boston Tea Party.

In these and in other ways Jews brought their gifts to colonial America. The Old Testament, we know well, exercised a strong hold over the thinking of colonial leaders. The most common names for children were biblical names—Daniel, Abraham, Seth, Gideon, Benjamin, Joshua. In Puritan New England, the Old Testament was a formal part of the legal code. Biblical quotations and analogies were the normal vocabulary of debate.

No wonder that the Liberty Bell, which rang out in 1776 from the State House in Philadelphia to announce the signing of the Declaration of Independence, had emblazoned on it an inscription taken from the Old Testament:

"Proclaim Liberty to all the land and to all the inhabitants thereof."

From the very beginning of the rift between the Colonies and England, Jews were active in the patriotic cause. When indignant merchants gathered in Philadelphia in 1765 to adopt the Non-Importation Resolutions, by which they agreed "not to have any goods shipped from Great Britain, until after the repeal of the Stamp Act" there were nine Jews among them—Benjamin Levy, Samson Levy, Joseph Jacobs, Hyman Levy, Jr., David Franks, Mathias Bush, Bernard Gratz, Michael Gratz and Moses Mordécai. Five years later leading importers met again to strengthen the Non-Importation Resolutions; among them could be found

such men as Samuel Judah, Hyman Levy, Jacob Moses, Jacob Myers, Jonas Phillips and Isaac Seixas.

When the seething volcano erupted into revolution and the war for liberty was on, the majority of the Jews in the Colonies joined the Revolutionary cause. Many served with distinction in General George Washington's army. Jews "were always at their posts and always foremost in all hazardous enterprises," wrote Solomon Etting of Baltimore, two decades later.

Less than a month after the earnest band of patriots in Philadelphia pledged to liberty "our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor," Francis Salvador, colorful plantation owner of South Carolina, who won the sobriquet of "the southern Paul Revere," was killed in battle against marauding Indians who had been incited to attack by the British. In the words of Judge William Drayton, leader of the South Carolina patriots, "Salvador was intimately known and esteemed by the first revolutionary characters of South Carolina." A member of his colony's Provincial Congress, Salvador rounded up volunteer troops to stave off the Indians' attack. There were three fierce engagements. In the last he was killed and scalped.

Salvador was only 29 years old when he died. But, young as he was, he left his mark on his countrymen. In the Provincial Congress he had been listened to with respect unusual for one of his youth.

Jews were also active in the revolutionary cause in Georgia. David Emanuel who was later to become Governor of Georgia, was one of the moving spirits among the patriots in his colony and leader of a community called Rebel Town, situated not far from Augusta. At McBean's Creek he was captured, together with several companions,

and they were marched off to a nearby field to be shot. One of his companions asked permission to deliver a final prayer before the execution. The request was granted and the patriot dropped to his knees, launching into a solemn and lengthy prayer.

Near by some horses were tethered. The British paid little attention to Emanuel who dashed toward the horses, mounted one, and rode off. The British took to their horses in pursuit, but Emanuel escaped them in the swamp by dropping into the bog up to his neck while his pursuers beat the underbrush in search of him, several times coming so close that he could hear their muttered curses. Next morning he made his way to the army of General Twiggs.

In South Carolina there was a "Jews' Company," commanded by Capt. Richard Lushington. Contrary to popular impression, this volunteer infantry was not composed entirely of Jews. It derived its name from the fact that it had been recruited from a section of Charleston in which Jews predominated and the majority of its members were Jews. The company, comprising some two dozen men, saw service in the Battle of Beaufort.

One of the most interesting families of the period were the Franks of Philadelphia. This Jewish family was unique in being predominantly Tory; but, as if to atone, it produced an outstanding rebel officer. One member of the family was David Franks, a leading business man of Philadelphia, who had performed important services in the French and Indian War. He led an effort to bring sorely-needed equipment to Washington during that war. He had signed the Non-Importation Resolutions. But when it came to independence from England he found it impossible to go all the way. The memory of his antecedents, friends of the Crown in

an earlier generation, bound him to the Loyalist cause. As a result his possessions were confiscated by the patriots. After the victory of the Revolution he moved to London, but nostalgia for America overcame him and he returned to the United States to throw in his fortune and his future with the Republic.

No reason to repent had Col. David Salisbury Franks, a nephew of the Tory David Franks and known to Thomas Jefferson. Colonel Franks was an aide first to Gen. Benjamin Lincoln, and later to Gen. Benedict Arnold. General Arnold's treason threw suspicion on Franks, but in a famous letter to Washington, Arnold cleared his aide of complicity: "In justice to the gentlemen of my official family, Col. Richard Varick and Major Franks, I think myself bound to declare that they . . . are totally ignorant of any transactions of mine that they had reason to believe were Injurious to the Public." Nevertheless the colonel demanded a complete military investigation to dispel the shadow which Arnold's act had thrown on him. He wrote to General Washington:

"I had here nothing but a Name unspotted I trust, until Arnold's baseness gave the Tongue of Calumny Grounds sufficient to work against anyone so unhappily connected with him."

The military tribunal completely exonerated Colonel Franks and later developments indicated that he retained the complete confidence of his superiors. He was given a military promotion and was dispatched with secret documents for Ambassador Benjamin Franklin in France. Franks was included by Thomas Jefferson in his planned delegation to the peace conference, but peace came quickly and before the assignment was concluded. He did, how-

ever, continue in the diplomatic service of his country for some time after this. In later years, when Jefferson was a member of Washington's cabinet, Franks attended a dinner at the home of the Sage of Monticello and became the subject of an anecdote related by historians. During a debate on the relative piety of New England and the South, Colonel Franks alone sided with John Trumbull, the New Englander, leading the latter to remark: "Isn't it strange, Mr. Jefferson, that here in a supposedly Christian country, in a Christian home, the only one who takes my side is a Jew?"

Isaac Franks was only seventeen when he enlisted in the rebel army shortly after the Battle of Lexington. He served under Washington in the Battle of Long Island, was wounded several times in battle and at one time was taken prisoner by the British. He continued in active service in various posts until illness forced his retirement in 1782. It was at his home in Germantown that President Washington resided when the capital was located in Philadelphia. He sat for Gilbert Stuart, who is renowned for his portraits of Washington and other colonial leaders. In 1794 he was appointed as lieutenant-colonel in the Pennsylvania Militia.

Among Jews who distinguished themselves in the Revolutionary army was Lt. Col. Solomon Bush. Serving with the Pennsylvania Militia, he made such a noteworthy record that he was cited for valor by the State's Supreme Executive Council. In one battle he was severely wounded and was for a time, prisoner of war. A member of his family, Capt. Lewis Bush, was killed in the Battle of Brandywine.

Maj. Benjamin Nones was one of the group of Frenchmen who came to America in 1777, at about the same time Lafayette arrived. Major Nones left a thriving wine busi-

ness in Bordeaux to come to the assistance of the embattled American rebels. He served as a private under Count Pulaski in the Carolinas and under Baron De Kalb. When De Kalb fell in the Battle of Camden in 1780, Nones was one of the officers who removed him from the battlefield. He later became Major of a unit composed partly of Jews.

Ensign Mordecai Davis of Pennsylvania died in the service. Three Pinto brothers, Solomon, William and Abraham, left Connecticut to fight for American independence. A fourth brother, Jacob, was active in patriot politics in New Haven. Capt. Jacob Cohen of Virginia commanded a cavalry company. Capt. Jacob De Leon and Jacob De La Motta, together with Nones, were with General De Kalb when he fell at Camden. Dr. Philip Moses Russel, who served as a surgeon's mate, was praised by Washington, in a letter for his "assiduous and faithful attention to the sick and wounded." He was with the army at Valley Forge during the winter of 1777-1778.

But Jewish contributions to the Revolution were not limited to fighting.

Had there not been a sufficient flow of money, the cause might have been starved into submission. Haym Salomon, a unique hero of the War for Independence, repeatedly staved off mutiny in the Colonial army by timely "loans." He poured a sum estimated by some historians at \$640,000—a tremendous amount in those days—into the Revolution in loans for the army, salaries for officials and in countless other ways. He died impoverished at the age of forty-five.

Born in Lissa, Poland, in 1740, Salomon came to New York after the partition of his native country. Well educated and possessed of remarkable talent, he immediately

became successful as a broker. He married Rachel Franks, of a famous family. Although New York was the seat of British power in the Colonies, Salomon cast his fortunes with the Sons of Liberty, was arrested after the revolutionary outbreaks in 1776, and was flung into prison as a spy. The British, recognizing his linguistic abilities (he could speak ten languages), put him to work as an interpreter. Finally he was released and went back into business, aiding the Colonials with his mounting fortune.

For his pro-revolutionary activities Salomon was arrested again. This time he was tortured and condemned to be hanged. With the aid of friends he managed to escape to Philadelphia. Arriving there penniless, he quickly returned to business, using his profits to buy food for the starving colonial army. Washington, Lafayette, Von Steuben and others came to him for aid.

It became a regular practice—and the diaries of Revolutionary leaders testify to this—that when money was needed, “the little Jew” was the man to go to. “When any member of the Revolutionary Congress was in need,” wrote James Madison, “all that was necessary was to call on Salomon.” In a letter from Philadelphia to Edmund Randolph, who became Washington’s first Attorney General, Madison said:

“I cannot in any way make you more sensible of the importance of your kind attention in making pecuniary remittance for me than by informing you that I have for some time been a pensioner on the favor of Haym Salomon, a Jew broker, I am almost ashamed to acknowledge my wants so incessantly to you, but they begin to be so urgent that it is impossible to suppress. The kindness of our little friend in S. Front Street, near the coffee house, is a fund that will

preserve me from extremities, but I never resort to it without great mortification as he obstinately rejects all recompense. The price of money is so usurious that he thinks it ought to be extorted from none but those who aim at profitable speculation. To a necessitous delegate he gratuitously spares a supply out of his private stock."

Salomon was appointed by Robert Morris, then Colonial Secretary of the Treasury, as broker to the Office of Finance. He was also paymaster of the French troops in America and negotiated many loans for the Colonies from France and Holland—taking no commission for himself.

There is a charming legend, not altogether established, but symbolizing the close identification of the Jew with the "Land of Liberty." The story has it that on one occasion General Washington's appeal for funds with which to maintain his ragged troops came to Salomon just on the Day of Atonement, the most solemn of Jewish Holy Days. Devoutly religious as he was, the story runs, Salomon recognized that love of country was an aspect of his religion, so he turned to the congregation, suspended services in order to secure pledges for the necessary funds, and only after that was done proceeded with the solemn holiday observance.

Another who lost most of his fortune in the war was Aaron Lopez, reputed to have been the wealthiest Jew in America at the time. His fleet of merchant ships was confiscated by the British, together with other property. Much of his wealth he had already donated to the patriotic cause. The news of the British confiscation of his property stirred the Colonies. James Wilson, a delegate to the Continental Congress, referred to it from the floor and at the same time paid tribute to the loyalty of Lopez. Aaron Lopez took his losses philosophically. To a friend he wrote that he had

moved to a new neighborhood, "where we have experienced the civilities and hospitality of a kind neighborhood and move in the same Sphere of Business I have been used to follow—although much more contracted, it has fully answered my wishes, and you know, my friend, when that is the case, it never fails of constituting a real happiness."

Another Jewish patriot was David Hays, who accomplished the singular feat of driving cattle from his Westchester farm through the British lines to the hungry Colonial troops. In reprisal, British troops visited his farm while he was away serving in Washington's army and burned the house down.

One of the well-known non-military figures of the Revolution was Rabbi Gershom Mendes Seixas of Congregation Shearith Israel in New York, who was reputed to be one of the clergymen invited to join in President Washington's inaugural procession.

Here, too, history and legend are intertwined. When the British order came through requiring all to take an oath of loyalty to the Crown, legend has it that Rabbi Seixas took to the pulpit, withdrew the Holy Scrolls, left New York, not to return until he could conscientiously swear loyalty to the American Republic. Seixas was one of the board of regents appointed to direct Columbia College after the war.

These are fragments of events long gone by. Many of them have been dug up painstakingly by scholars of revolutionary history. All of them make it crystal clear that early in our history the Jews in America knew the precious value implicit in our Declaration of Independence and were prepared to sacrifice, to fight, and to die for it.

To the Hebrew Congregation in Newport
Rhode Island
Gentlemen.

While, I receive, with much satisfaction
your Address reflects with expressions of affection
and esteem, I rejoice in the opportunity of assuring
you, that I shall always retain a grateful remem-
brance of the cordial welcome I experienced in
my visit to Newport, from all classes of citizens.

The Citizens of the United States of America
have a right to applaud themselves for having given
to mankind examples of an enlarged and liberal
policy, a policy worthy of imitation. All possess
alike Liberty of conscience and immunities of
citizenship

May the Children of
the Stock of Abraham, who dwell in this land, continue
to merit and enjoy the good will of the other Inhabitants;
while everyone shall sit in safety under his own
vine and fig-tree, and there shall be none to make
him afraid. May the father of all mercies scatter
light and not darkness in our paths, and make
us all in our several vocations here, and in his
own due time and way everlastingly happy

G. Washington

II

THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER

FOR some three decades, there was relative peace. The young nation was discovering its own strength and vitality. There was a great economic lift; agriculture, trade and industry prospered. A bold American merchant fleet made its way across the seas. In its vigor, the country understood that freedom of the seas was necessary for its survival. When Tripolitanian pirates sought to levy tributes on American commerce, the government did not hesitate to use all its powers to suppress the threat to its well-being.

One of the most exciting episodes of this expedition against pirates was a "suicide sortie" into Tripoli harbor with a small boat loaded with explosives and combustibles to attack the Tripolitanian fleet. One of the ten seamen from the American frigates "Nautilus" and "Constitution" who volunteered for the suicidal task was Midshipman Joseph Israels. The little vessel stole into the harbor in the shadow of the enemy's guns and set off charges that destroyed the largest of the Tripolitanian ships and disabled two others.

If the young Republic was ready to fight Tripolitanian pirates for her rights on the seas, she was also willing to defend these rights against a major European power. England and France, locked in desperate battle for European hegemony, were trampling on the rights of neutrals on the seas, halting ships, searching and seizing them. Young America expanding on its continent also chafed at the

thought of British barriers to the west and north. The situation finally became so acute that entry of the United States into the war seemed inevitable. Public opinion was split between those who felt that American survival made war a painful necessity and those who cried for peace at any price.

Then, as now, the country divided between those who saw that in order to grow we could not isolate ourselves from the world, and others who wished to hide behind the ocean barrier. The outcome was clear. American sentiment unmistakably favored fighting for our rights as a sovereign power and for freedom of action. Before long the United States was involved in its second conflict within two generations.

It was the second generation of revolutionary patriots which fought the War of 1812. Haym M. Salomon, son of Haym Salomon, was captain of the Tenth Brigade, 115th Regiment. Abraham Seixas was captain of the Tenth Brigade Infantry. In Georgia, several sons of Sheftall Sheftall served in the army. The son of Major Nones was a midshipman in the navy and served as secretary to Henry Clay who represented our country at the peace negotiations in Ghent.

The War of 1812 was mainly a war of the sea and its outstanding battles were on the water. One of the most heroic men fighting for United States was the French Jewish privateersman, Commodore John Ordronaux, whose notable feats are described by William Maclay, historian of the American navy: He was "so diminutive in stature as to make it appear ridiculous in the eyes of others even to think of him enforcing authority among a hardy, weather-beaten crew." But he commanded respect by his bravery and ability.

Once he halted retreat by his men in the face of a British boarding party by running to the powder magazine with a lighted match and threatening to blow up the ship if his crew retreated further.

"One of the most remarkable actions of the war was between the British forty-gun frigate *Endymion* and the armed ship *Prince de Neufchatel*. The extraordinary feature of this affair lies in the fact that a vessel fitted out at private expense actually frustrated the utmost endeavors of an English frigate of vastly superior forces in guns and men. As the commander of the *Endymion* said, he lost as many men in his efforts to seize the *Prince de Neufchatel* as he would have done had his ship engaged a man of war of equal force, and he generously acknowledged that the people in the privateer conducted their defense in the most heroic and skillful manner.

"Captain Ordroneaux himself fired some eighty shots at the enemy. Springing up the sides of the vessel, the British would endeavor to gain her deck but every attempt was met by deadly blows by the sturdy defenders. It was well understood that Captain Ordroneaux had avowed his determination of never being taken alive and that he would blow up his ship with all hands before striking his colors. At one period of the fighting when the British had gained the deck and were gradually driving the Americans back, Ordroneaux seized a lighted match, ran to the companion-way, directly over the magazine, and called out to his men that he would blow up the ship if they retreated further. The threat had the desired effect. Such a sanguinary fight could not be of long duration and at the end of twenty minutes the English cried out for quarter, upon which the Americans ceased their fighting."

Of like breed was Commodore Uriah P. Levy, one of the most famous figures in early American Naval history, who ran away to sea at the age of 14 and died in 1862 the highest ranking officer in the Navy. He left his home in Philadelphia, where he had been born April 22, 1793, to sign on a merchant ship. At 15 he was mate of the brig "Polly and Betsy," and at 20 he became master and part owner of the brig-of-war "Argus," which ran the British blockade to France with William H. Crawford, American Minister to France, aboard. On the return voyage the "Argus" destroyed 21 British merchantmen and captured a number of other vessels, which Levy armed for battle against the British men-of-war. Meeting the heavily-armed British frigate "Pelican," Levy fought an unequal battle until the "Argus" was sunk and he himself was taken prisoner. He spent 16 months in Dartmoor prison.

In later years Commodore Levy helped to effect important changes in American naval procedure. He was one of those responsible for the abolition of corporal punishment in the Navy. His humanitarianism is enshrined on his tombstone with the words: "He was the father of the law for the abolition of the barbarous practice of corporal punishment in the Navy of the United States."*

One comradeship, that between a Jewish and a Christian soldier, has been made famous in verse and story. It was the friendship of Judah Touro and Rezin Davis Shepherd, enlisted men in Andrew Jackson's army.

Touro, son of a Newport rabbi, had gone to New Orleans to establish himself in business. He joined the army

*The U.S.S. Levy, a destroyer-escort, named in honor of Commodore Levy was launched at Port Newark, N. J., on March 28, 1943.

as a common soldier—a deed which aroused the tribute of the celebrated American historian, James Parton. In the ranks he met Shepherd, and a staunch friendship grew up between them.

During the defense of New Orleans, Touro volunteered to undertake the hazardous mission of delivering shot from the powder magazine to Humphreys' Battery, headquarters of the city's defense, in the face of a withering barrage. One shot brought him down. As he lay unconscious amidst the storm of fire, word reached Shepherd that his comrade was wounded and in danger. In defiance of explicit orders, Shepherd ran out into the range of fire and rescued his friend. "Commodore," he declared later, when reprimanded for his action, "you can hang or shoot me, and it would be all right, but my best friend needed my assistance, and nothing on earth could have induced me to neglect him." Upon Touro's death, Shepherd became his chief beneficiary.

Touro lived to become a great benefactor of New Orleans. He founded the city's first free public library. He bought the New Orleans Baptists their first church. Together with Amos Lawrence, he provided the final \$20,000 needed to complete the Bunker Hill monument. The act called forth many tributes, one of them in verse:

*"Amos and Judah, venerated names,
Patriarch and Prophet, press their equal claims,
Like generous coursers, running neck and neck,
Each aided the work by giving it a check.
Christian and Jew, they carry out one plan,
For, though of different faiths, each is in heart à man."*

Touro was greatly embarrassed by the public excitement resulting from his donation to the fund for the Bunker

Hill monument. He told some of his intimate friends that he had understood his name would not be mentioned in connection with the gift and had he thought it would be otherwise, he would not have contributed.

Lossing's *Pictorial Field Book of the War of 1812* pays special tribute to the heroism of Captain Mordecai Myers, who received his first military training in a company commanded by Col. John Marshall, later Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court. When Myers moved from Virginia to New York he became a member of an artillery company commanded by Capt. John Swarthout, and later was commissioned an officer in the infantry. As the war threat loomed, he led a drive to raise volunteer companies and in March, 1812, he was commissioned a captain in the 13th Pennsylvania Infantry, serving under Col. Peter B. Schuyler. Under the command of Gen. Henry Dearborn the army came close to disaster and finally Gen. James Wilkinson was named to succeed him. It was under the latter's command that Captain Myers played an important part in rescue operations on Lake Ontario. Lossing relates:

"Capt. Mordecai Myers was very active in saving lives and property during this boisterous weather. It was resolved to send back to Sacketts Harbor all those who could then endure active service in the campaign. Nearly 200 of these were put on board two schooners with hospital stores. The vessels were wrecked and Captain Myers, at his own solicitation, was sent by Gen. John Parker Boyd with two large boats for the rescue of the passengers and crew. He found the schooners filling on their sides, the sail flapping and the sea breaking over them. Many had perished and the most of those alive, having drunk freely of liquor among the hospital stores, were nearly all intoxicated. The hatches

were open and the vessels were half filled with water. By great exertion and personal risk, Captain Myers succeeded in taking to the shore nearly all of the 200 persons who had embarked on the schooners. Forty or fifty were dead."

Captain Myers distinguished himself in a number of engagements during the Canadian Campaign, in one of which, at Chrysler's Farm, he was seriously wounded.

Anita Lebeson reminds us that Myers "skilled though he seems to have been in military arts, found the intricacies of the King's English a bit too much for him." She gives us this amusing example of the determined warrior at his desk:

"The time has arrived when the nation requires all its advocats. Sum must spill there blud and others there ink. I expect to be amongst the former. . . ."

Few rendered more valiant service in resisting the invasion of the South than Maj. Abraham A. Massias. Descendant of a pioneer family in Charleston, Massias entered the service during the War of 1812 as a captain and was promoted to major in 1814. Major Massias' men repulsed repeated attempts of the British to enter Georgia from the sea. In the words of one historian, "the enemy attacked Point Peter on the St. Mary's, sending 1,500 men in boats up the river for that purpose, but the fortifications were good and the garrison under Major Massias made so brave a show that the English concluded the post was too strong to be carried, and withdrew."

Levi Myers Harby, who was later to give notable service in the Mexican War, was midshipman, at the age of 14, in the War of 1812. He was captured by the British but escaped by swimming. Other Jewish officers in this war were Brig. Gen. Joseph Bloomfield, who commanded the

district including Pennsylvania, Delaware and Western New Jersey; Lt. Benjamin Gratz, a Pennsylvania volunteer; Lt. Isaac Mertz, of Pennsylvania regiment; Lt. David Metzler; Capt. Meyer Moses of South Carolina; Col. Nathan Myers; Adj. Isaac Myers of Pennsylvania; Sgt. Samuel Goodman and Sgt. Jacob Moser.

During the defense of Fort McHenry, Francis Scott Key wrote *The Star Spangled Banner*. More than one Jew stood in "the rockets' red glare" the night that inspired the author of our National Anthem. The muster of that engagement includes Samuel Konig, Washington Artillery; Solomon Myers, Eagle Artillery; Levy Callmus, United Maryland Artillery; First Corp. Martin Hirsch, Battalion of Maryland, Militia; Pvt. Jacob Moses, Battalion of Maryland, Militia; Pvt. H. Myers, Marine Artillery; Lt. Jacob Barnits, Fifth Maryland Volunteer Infantry; Pvs. David Kaufman and Jacob Ellman, Fifth Maryland Volunteer Infantry; Capt. Jacob Baer, Maryland Cavalry; Pvt. Michael Wolf, Baltimore Light Infantry; Pvs. Thomas Levy and Jacob Mayer, Mechanical Volunteers; Capt. David Warfield, Pvt. Isaac Phillips, Baltimore United Volunteers; Sgt. Samuel Myers, Independent Blues; Pvs. Henry Wolf, G. C. Leoni, Benjamin Jacobs, Vincent Levy, Benjamin F. Pollak and Aaron Mack, Sixth Independent Maryland Militia; Pvs. Jacob Wolf, Daniel Kaufman, Bernard Myers and Samuel Wolf, First Lts. William Samuels, Samuel Solomon and Isaac Phillips, 30th Independent Regiment.

With the end of the War of 1812, the United States embarked upon an era of unprecedented growth in every direction. Her pioneers were picking up their lives by the

roots and scattering them westward across the plains. The Monroe Doctrine asserted our hegemony in the Western Hemisphere. The wheels of industry began to hum with a steadily quickening tempo.

The Jewish community, consisting largely of Jews of Sephardic descent, was now firmly rooted in the life of America. Two of them, Judah P. Benjamin of Louisiana and David Yulee of Florida, sat in the United States Senate. In her poems in *The American Israelite* and elsewhere, Ada Isaacs Menken, termed "the glory of the world" by Swinburne, was expressing the life of America and a passionate hope for liberation of the Jews from oppression.

Into the slender Jewish lifestream in America a new element began to trickle—the German Jews, who soon began to outnumber the descendants of the early Jewish settlers. The Sephardic Jewish aristocracy, whose forebears had come here to escape the same kind of oppression that was spurring the new immigration, gave a chilly reception to the newcomers. They looked with raised eyebrows at this rabble who engaged in such lowly occupations as peddling and petty trading. Things reached the point where the Scotch-descended James Gordon Bennett had to lecture the Sephardic Jews, in his *New York Herald*, on their condescension towards the German Jews. But the immigrants continued to arrive and before long they had made a place for themselves here.

In the forties and fifties, iron rails were beginning to link the east and the west. Telegraph poles were sprouting up. The destiny of the country was in the west, and even the vast wilderness was not enough for the fast-growing Republic. The United States went to war with Mexico over Texas.

The war was preceded by Texas' fight for independence, and in this struggle a number of Jews participated. The surgeon who accompanied Gen. Sam Houston through the war in Texas was Moses Albert Levy. Abraham Wolf was killed in the historic Battle of the Alamo. Adolphus Sterne, who served with Houston, took a conspicuous part in the fighting in the Fredonian Rebellion. He was captured by the Mexicans and was sentenced to be shot, but subsequently was released. Sterne was later elected to the legislature of the Republic of Texas, before its entry into the Union.

David S. Kaufman, aide-de-camp to General Douglas, was wounded at the Battle of Neches. Later he was chosen Speaker of the Texas Assembly and supported the movement for annexation by the United States. Following entry into the Union, he was elected a Representative in Congress from Texas. Lt. Henry Seligson fought with such distinction that he was summoned by Gen. Zachary Taylor, the American commander, to receive personal commendation.

Perhaps the most famous Jewish officer of the Mexican War was Surgeon General David de Leon of South Carolina. Twice he took the place of commanding officers who had been killed or put out of action and both times acted with such gallantry and ability as to merit expressions of gratitude from Congress. General de Leon won the sobriquet "the fighting doctor" in the Battle of Chapultepec. Twice he led cavalry charges "into the cannon's mouth." In February, 1861, he resigned as Surgeon-Major in the Union Army and was appointed first Surgeon-General of the Confederacy.

One company, composed largely of Jewish immigrants from Germany, was organized in Baltimore. It was described in a dispatch to the *New York Herald*, as follows:

"BALTIMORE, July 3.—Among the companies which

have been formed here, one for the most part of Jews, attracts particular attention. Almost for the most part composed of immigrants, they have given, by the raising of this company to fight with the native militia in behalf of our institutions, a splendid instance of their love and devotion for those and for their fatherland. Captain Henry Carroll, who was paymaster of the Fifth Regiment, has willingly resigned his position to accept the command of this patriotic company. Its other officers are Levi Benjamin, first lieutenant; Joseph Simpson, second lieutenant; Samuel G. Goldsmith, third lieutenant; S. Eyttings, first sergeant, and Dr. J. Horowitz, surgeon."

Among the first killed in action in the war with Mexico was Sgt. Abraham Adler of the New York Volunteers. Col. Leon Dyer was quartermaster-general for Gen. Winfield Scott. Altogether, 57 Jews have been prominently mentioned in the records of the Mexican War.

STUDY IN AMERICAN STRENGTH

By H. I. Phillips

("Three American airmen, Edward Mallory Vogel, Tennessee; Issie Goldberg, the Bronx, N. Y., and Edwin J. Sipowski, Waukegan, Ill., killed in a take-off in San Juan Harbor, were buried side by side, with a Protestant chaplain, a Roman Catholic priest and a rabbi officiating. The flag for which they fought flew over them."—News item.)

*A chaplain, a priest and a rabbi—
Protestant—Catholic—Jew—
Three Yanks in three simple caskets—
Three colors, red, white and blue . . .*

*A hush on a tropic island
As notes from a bugle fall—
Three rituals slowly chanted—
Three faiths in a common call!*

*A lad from the Bronx; another
Who joined up in Tennessee;
A third one from far Waukegan—
A typical bunch, those three!
A crash in a naval airplane . . .
A rush to its crumpled side . . .
And nearby Old Glory marking
The reason the trio died.*

*They answered a call to duty
From church and from synagogue—
From hillside and teeming city . . .
Three names in a naval log!
Each raised in his separate concepts—
Each having his form to pray—
But all for a faith triumphant
When rituals fade away!*

*A prayer in Latin phrases—
And one with more ancient lore;
A Protestant simple service—
All one on a distant shore!
"Qui tollis peccata mundi" . . .
And, "Enter ye unto rest" . . .
A blessing from ancient Moses . . .
For three who had met the test!*

*This is the story mighty
Making our sinews strong:
Boys from the many altars
Warring on one great wrong!
This is the nation's power,
This is its suit of mail:
Land where each narrow bigot
Knows that he can't prevail!*

III

TO PRESERVE THE UNION

JEWs were prominent on both sides of the Mason-Dixon Line when the seething ferment between the North and the South finally burst into the flame of Civil War. President Abraham Lincoln had intimate Jewish friends. A Chicago merchant, Abraham Kohn, gave the President a flag inscribed with a quotation from the Book of Joshua to take with him to Washington. Abraham Jonas, of Quincy, Illinois, presided at one of the Lincoln-Douglas debates and it was at Jonas' office that Lincoln for a time made his headquarters. They remained friends even when Jonas's five sons fought in the Confederate army, and he appointed Jonas postmaster in Quincy. When Jonas was on his death bed, one of his sons was captured by Union soldiers. President Lincoln released the youth for three weeks to visit his father.

It was natural that Jews would be found aligned on both sides of the controversy that threatened to tear the Union asunder. Rabbi David Einhorn in Baltimore had to flee to the North after his espousal of anti-slavery doctrines placed him in danger. Leopold Blumberg, another Baltimore Jew, was a leader of the anti-slavery fight and narrowly escaped lynching for his beliefs. In New York, District Attorney Philip J. Joachimson carried on a vigorous prosecution under the anti-slavery laws. Three of the

score of men who loyally followed John Brown in his crusade against slavery were newly-arrived Jewish immigrants—Theodore Weiner from Poland, Jacob Benjamin from Bohemia, and August Bondi from Vienna.

Once, as they lay behind bushes in Kansas, awaiting the foe, they pondered over possible death. As Weiner relates it, at a moment when their end seemed to be approaching, Weiner asked Benjamin, in German:

"Nu, was sagen Sie Jetzt?" (What do you say now?)

"Sof adam moveth," replied Benjamin, quoting the Hebrew proverb to the effect that man is mortal.

Bondi, a man of fine education, had fought for freedom as a student revolutionist in Vienna before 1848.

When the Civil War broke out, all three were quick to enlist in the Union Army, Benjamin and Weiner serving as privates, while Bondi was first sergeant in Company K of the Fifth Kansas Cavalry.

In those days of feverish controversy over slavery, there were other Jews who raised their voices. Ernestine Rose, eloquent orator of Polish origin, who was later praised by Susan B. Anthony in her memoirs as precursor of the movement for women's suffrage, fought slavery with heart and voice. Sigmund Kaufman, who had participated in the European revolutionary movement of 1848 and was a delegate to the Republican National Convention which nominated Lincoln for the presidency, was a frequent speaker in English and German before anti-slavery audiences. Moritz Panner, another delegate to the same Republican convention, edited a German-language anti-slavery periodical.

The surcharged atmosphere of hostility between North and South needed only a spark to set off the explosion. That spark was provided by the firing on Fort Sumter. It

was a war that even cut through lines of family associations. And Jews were found fighting on both sides.

After President Lincoln's call for volunteers, Bret Harte, whose grandfather had been among the Jews who fought in the war of 1812, read to a patriotic meeting in California a poem, *The Reveille*, which was received with wild cheers and soon spread through the country to become the most widely-repeated patriotic verse of the day. The stirring poem ends with this stanza:

*Better there in death united than in life a recreant, come!
Thus they answered hoping, fearing,
Some in faith and doubting some
Till a trumpet voice proclaiming,
Said, my chosen people, come,
Then the drum,
Lo! was dumb
For the great heart of the nation, throbbing, answered,
Lord, we come.*

Many Jews answered this call. Simon Wolf, who made the most thorough study of the subject, estimates that 8,400 Jews served in the war, out of a total Jewish population estimated between 100,000 and 150,000. John Seddon, Confederate Secretary of War, is said to have refused a request for High Holy Day furloughs for Jewish soldiers on the ground that there were 10,000 to 12,000 Jews in the Confederate army, and "it would disintegrate certain commands if the request was granted."

So large a figure must be taken with reserve. However, it is reported from conservative sources that in New York alone, more than 2,000 Jews entered the Union service and more than 1,000 Jews volunteered from Illinois. It is

recorded that there were eight generals, twenty-one colonels, nine lieutenant colonels, forty majors, two hundred and five captains, three hundred and twenty-five lieutenants, forty-eight adjutants and twenty-five surgeons.

On the Union side, the valor of Jewish soldiers as a group is attested by statements of high officers. General Oliver O. Howard wrote:

"So many of the German officers and men were of Jewish lineage that I am unable to designate them. I had a Jewish aide-de-camp, one of the bravest and best, in the first battle of Bull Run; he is now a distinguished officer of the army, a man of scientific attainment. I had another aide who was killed at the Battle of Chancellorsville, a true and brave officer. Two of my brigade commanders answered to the above description. Intrinsically there are no more patriotic men to be found in the country than those who claim to be of Hebrew descent and who served with me in parallel commands or more directly under my instructions."

General Stahel declared in a statement:

"There were many Hebrews under me . . . I always found the soldiers of Jewish faith as firm in their devotion to the cause of the country they were serving as any others, and ever ready to perform any duty to which they might be assigned."

And T. N. Waul, who commanded a Southern Legion, stated:

"Two of the infantry companies had a large number of Jews in their ranks and the largest company in the command—120 men—was officered by Jews and three-fourths of the rank and file were of that faith. There were also a number of Jews scattered throughout the command in other companies. They were all volunteers, and I know there

was not a Jew conscript in the Legion. As soldiers they were brave, orderly and well-disciplined and in no respect inferior to the gallant body of which they formed a prominent part. Their behavior in camp, as in the field, was exemplary. No Jew in the command was arraigned before a court-martial and, in proportion to their numbers, there were fewer applications for leave of absence, and their regular habits caused very few of their names to appear on the hospital rolls. In battle, without distinction of race or religion, all were apparently willing and eager for the contest. I will say, however, I never saw nor heard of any Jew shrinking or failing to answer to any call of duty or danger."

Several Jews won national distinction for individual action. Seven Jews won the Congressional Medal of Honor, the highest award for bravery. They were Sgt. Leopold Karpeles, Sgt. Benjamin B. Levy, Sgt.-Maj. Abraham Cohn, Sgt. Henry Heller, Pvt. David Orbansky, Pvt. Abraham Gruenwalt and Corp. Isaac Gause.

Here, in brief, are the stories of some of the Jewish heroes on the Union side, winners of the Congressional Medal and others:

LEOPOLD KARPELES, born in Prague in 1838, came to the United States at the age of 12. He joined his brother in Texas, who was in the business of convoying caravans across the Mexican border. When the war broke out, he enlisted in the army in Springfield, Mass. He was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his act in rallying the men of the 57th Massachusetts Volunteers around the flag and turning a retreat into victory. Said the official citation: "At the Battle of the Wilderness, May 6, 1864, while color-bearer of his regiment, rallied the re-

treating troops and induced them to check the advance of the enemy."

BENJAMIN B. LEVY, enlisted in 1861, at the age of 16, in the First New York Volunteers as a drummer. His company was stationed at Newport News and Levy was detailed to duty as orderly for Gen. John Mansfield. While carrying dispatches from General Mansfield to Gen. John Ellis Wool at Fort Monroe, Levy was aboard a steamboat which was attacked by a Confederate gunboat. The steamboat, which had a number of Union officers aboard, was being slowed up by a water schooner she had in tow. With the Union ship in imminent danger of capture, Levy had the presence of mind to cut the tow rope with his pocket knife and avert seizure of the steamship. Later in the Battle of Charles City Crossroads he rescued two standards dropped by wounded color-bearers and was promoted to color-sergeant. The day of his promotion he had the task of unfurling the colors to halt a barrage fired in error by Union troops against his company, whose uniforms were so dust-laden that they appeared to be Confederates. At the Battle of the Wilderness, in January, 1864, he was severely wounded, recovering in time to be present at Gen. Robert E. Lee's surrender at Appomatox. Before rejoining his regiment he was awarded the Congressional Medal.

ABRAHAM COHN studied medicine at the University of Berlin before coming to the United States. He was sergeant-major in the Sixth New Hampshire Volunteers and captain in the 68th New York Regiment. He received the Congressional Medal for two acts of valor. During the Battle of the Wilderness he rallied and reformed the disorganized and fleeing troops of several regiments under heavy fire and organized a new line which successfully held

its positions. During the Battle of Petersburg, he showed coolness and courage in carrying orders to and from advance lines, while under heavy fire.

HENRY HELLER, a sergeant in the 66th Ohio Infantry, received the Congressional Medal for an act he accomplished at the Battle of Chancellorsville. He was one of a party of four who, acting on their own initiative, rescued a Confederate officer lying in pain between the Union and Confederate lines. Later, it turned out, Heller's superiors obtained valuable information from the rescued officer.

LEOPOLD BLUMENBERG, who had to flee from Baltimore to escape lynching for his anti-slavery sentiments, organized a regiment of volunteers immediately on the outbreak of the war and fought in many battles until he was wounded at Antietam, which made further active service impossible. He continued to serve, however, and rose successively to provost-marshal for the Third Maryland District and brevet brigadier-general. Suddenly dismissed from his post as a result of a political intrigue, he secured the intervention of President Lincoln, who ordered a hearing for him. "He has suffered for us and served us well, had the rope around his neck for being our friend, raised troops, fought and been wounded," wrote the President. "He should not be dismissed in a way that disgraces and ruins him without a hearing." The effects of his wounds at Antietam lingered with him and finally caused his death.

PHILIP J. JOACHIMSON, the New York District Attorney who secured the first anti-slavery conviction, helped to organize a volunteer regiment and served as its lieutenant-colonel. He was later appointed brevet brigadier-general and was wounded while serving in New Orleans.

EDWARD S. SOLOMON, colonel of the 82nd Illinois Volunteer Infantry, which included more than 100 Jews, was a hero of Gettysburg, Atlanta and other battles. At Gettysburg he won commendation for his coolness. It was said that at one moment, amid the fury of the battle, he amazed his colleagues by calmly smoking a cigar. He was raised to brevet brigadier-general and after the war served as Governor of Washington Territory for four years by appointment of President Grant.

Born in Schleswig-Holstein, Solomon came to the United States when still in his teens. He enlisted in the army at the age of 25 and his rise from the ranks was rapid. After the Battle of Atlanta, Col. John Cleveland Robinson, urging his promotion to brigadier-general, wrote: "I consider Colonel Solomon one of the most deserving officers. His regiment is deserving of the highest praise. In point of discipline it is second to none in the corps. Its record will bear safe comparison with any other of the same age in the army."

ABRAHAM HART, captain and brigadier adjutant-general of the 73rd Pennsylvania Regiment, performed outstanding work in the battles of Cross Keys and Bull Run. At Cross Keys he led a detachment of picked men in a hazardous circuit of the Confederate camp, obtaining considerable valuable information as to the position and movements of "Stonewall" Jackson's forces. At Bull Run he commanded an operation which resulted in the silencing of a menacing Rebel battery.

MAX EINSTEIN, born in Wuerttemberg, Germany, rose to the position of brigadier-general commanding the Second Brigade of the 37th Pennsylvania Infantry. His regiment included some 30 Jewish officers and 60 enlisted

men. The 27th covered the retreat of the Union army in the first Battle of Bull Run.

MARCUS M. SPIEGEL was killed in Louisiana at the time he was slated to be promoted to brigadier-general. He had enlisted in the 67th Ohio Infantry and rose to the position of colonel of the 120th Ohio Infantry. He was wounded at Vicksburg and again at Snaggy Point.

LEOPOLD C. NEWMAN, lieutenant-colonel of the 31st Pennsylvania Infantry, 'was fatally wounded at Chancellorsville; President Lincoln visited him on his deathbed and conferred on him a brigadier-general's commission. Col. William Mayer, who rendered special service during the draft riots in New York, received a letter of thanks from the President. Gen. Henry Moses Judah was active in the pursuit of the Rebel Raider Morgan. Gen. Frederick Knefler distinguished himself at Chickamauga and marched with Sherman to the sea.

DAVID ORBANSKY, a private in the 58th Ohio Infantry, received the Congressional Medal for gallantry in action at Shiloh, Vicksburg and in other battles; Abraham Gruenwalt, private of the 104th Ohio Infantry, for capturing the Southern Corps Headquarters flag; and Isaac Gause, sergeant of the Second Ohio Cavalry, for capturing the colors of the Eighth South Carolina Infantry in 1864 by a daring sortie into enemy-held territory ending in a hand-to-hand fight.

If the story of Jewish service in the Union forces is more extensive, it is only because there are more complete records available, but Jews also gave signal service in the Confederate armies.

JUDAH P. BENJAMIN was the outstanding Jew in the South's struggle, holding three successive cabinet posts

in the Confederate Government. Before the war he had been a Senator from Louisiana and had declined a seat on the Supreme Court.

Born in the West Indies, Benjamin was brought to Charleston while still a child. He attended Yale University, but did not remain to take his degree. Settling in New Orleans, he taught school for a time and married one of his pupils, Natalie St. Martin. Later he studied law and was elected to the Louisiana Legislature, from where he was advanced to the United States Senate.

Like many southerners, he long resisted secession, but when the step was taken he cast in his lot with the Confederacy. Named Secretary of War, he found himself the object of a violent personal attack which blamed him for an important Confederate defeat because he had not been able to dispatch needed munitions to a certain point when they were needed. He remained silent through the storm and retained the confidence of President Jefferson Davis, who transferred him to the post of Secretary of State. It was only after the war that it was revealed that Secretary Benjamin had been blameless in the munitions affair; the Confederacy simply had not had the powder to send, and Benjamin had remained silent rather than make an explanation that would hurt Confederate morale.

However, the transfer of Benjamin to the portfolio of Secretary of State proved to be fortunate. In this position he found much greater scope for his talents. The primary aim of the Confederacy was to obtain foreign support and Benjamin accomplished a major stroke which, had it come earlier, might have changed the tide of the war. He removed the slavery issue, which had made France and England reluctant to give all-out aid to the Confederacy, by

proposing that the South itself free its slaves. But the step came too late, for the Union was by then too near victory for the European powers to chance any important assistance to the Confederacy. Nevertheless, Benjamin did succeed in having some ships for the Confederacy built in British yards.

In the South the name of a Jewish soldier, Max Frauenthal, became a synonym for courage. His name became corrupted to "Fronthall" and when southerners wished to call some one valorous, they would say he was a "regular Fronthall." He won this unique reputation by his bravery at such battles as Spottsylvania Courthouse, where he served with the 16th Infantry. A description of the Spottsylvania battle written years later by A. T. Watts, concluded with this recital of Frauenthal's valor:

"In conclusion, I cannot forego the mention of one individual. Fronthall, a little Jew, although insignificant in appearance, had the heart of a lion. For several hours he stood at the immediate point of contact, amid the most terrific hail of lead, and coolly and deliberately loaded and fired without cringing. After observing his unflinching bravery and constancy, the thought occurred to the writer: I now understand how it was that a handful of Jews could drive before them the hundred kings; they were all Fronthalls."

Among other Jews in the Confederate forces were General de Leon, "the fighting doctor" of the Mexican War, who served as surgeon of the Army; Capt. L. G. Harby, another veteran of the Mexican War, who became commodore in the Confederate fleet and commanded the defense of Galveston and Col. Raphael Moses.

Perhaps more difficult than winning the war was restoring peace. Among those who sought to aid in healing the

wounds between North and South was Michael Heilprin. He had been a leader of the revolution of 1848 in Hungary and an intimate of Louis Kossuth. With the collapse of the revolutionary movement, Heilprin emigrated to the United States. Respected for his integrity and possessed of an encyclopedic knowledge, he became one of the editors of *The Nation* at a time when the liberal publication exerted an important influence on American journalism.

Heilprin warmly supported the Union cause, but when the war was over his voice cried out against any spirit of vengeance towards the South. He began issuance of a special publication to this end. As later events showed, his voice was one of the few which cried vainly in the wilderness of post-war bitterness.

When Michael Heilprin died, leaders of all faiths joined in homage to a man who had been true to the finest traditions of America. His name was carried on by his son, Angelo Heilprin, who pioneered in a different direction. It was the younger Heilprin who led the expedition into the Arctic which rescued Admiral Peary when he was lost in his search for the North Pole.

While the Civil War was being fought, the foundations for a great international humanitarian movement were being laid in Geneva. In 1863 a congress of delegates met to found the International Red Cross. The United States at first remained aloof from the Red Cross, partly because of the sympathy of the European nations towards the Confederate cause, but during the late 1870's private meetings began to be held in the home of private citizens of Washington in anticipation of American adherence to the Red Cross convention.

The principal meeting place was the home of Adol-

phus Simeon Solomons, a New York-born publisher who had become prominent in Washington's communal affairs. It was at his home that a proposal was accepted to incorporate, in the District of Columbia, a society known as the American Association of the Red Cross. This was the official beginning of the Red Cross in the United States. After the U. S. had finally ratified the Red Cross treaty in 1882, Solomons was one of the three persons appointed by President Chester Arthur in 1884 to represent this country at the Geneva congress and there he was elected vice-president. During the Spanish-American War, with Solomons still a member of the executive board, the American Red Cross was to render important service in ministering to the needs of American soldiers, and in subsequent war and disaster relief it assumed a role that has made it an almost indispensable organization in American life.

Adolphus Simeon Solomons enjoyed such esteem in Washington that when Vice-President Schuyler Colfax was prevented from appearing at the dedication of the YMCA building in the capital, Solomons was asked to substitute for him. Solomons was outspoken in defense of Jewish rights. In 1862, when General Grant issued an order expelling "Jews as a class" from his lines, on the ground that their mercantile activity interfered with the movements of his troops, Solomons obtained revocation of the order from General-in-Chief Henry W. Halleck. In addition, Solomons was one of the founders of the Jews' Hospital in New York, which eventually developed into Mt. Sinai Hospital; served as treasurer of the Alliance Israelite in the United States; general-agent of the Baron de Hirsch Fund; and trustee and acting president of the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York.

THE FIGHTING JEW

By Damon Runyon

*There's a story in that paper
I just tossed upon the floor
That speaks of prejudice against the Jews
There's a photo on the table
There's a memory of the . . .
And a man who never figured in the news
There's a cross upon his breast,
That's the D.S.C.
The Croix de Guerre, the Militaire
These too
And there's a heart beneath the medals
That beats loyal, brave and true,
A Jew.*

*He is short and fat and funny
And the nose upon his face
Is about the size of bugler Dugan's horn
But the grin that plays behind
Is wide and soft and sunny
And he wore it from the day that he was born
There's a cross upon his chest—
That's the D.S.C.
The Croix de Guerre, the Militaire
Mon Dieu!
He's a he-man out of Texas
And he's all man through and through
That's Dreben,
A Jew.*

*Now whenever I read articles
That breathe of racial hate
Or hear arguments that hold his kind to scorn
I always see that photo
With the cap upon the pate
And the nose the size of Bugler Dugan's horn.
I see upon his breast
The D.S.C.
The Croix de Guerre, the Militaire,
These too.
And I think, thank God, Almighty,
We will always have a few,
Like Dreben,
A Jew.*

IV

THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR

THE wounds of the Civil War were long in healing, but as they healed, the expansion of the United States went ahead at an accelerated pace. By the end of the century the Republic forged into the position of a great world power.

An important factor in the development of the country was immigration, which expanded until it reached large proportions. The Jews of America, who had numbered some 100,000 at the outbreak of the Civil War, increased tenfold, fed largely by a tidal wave of Jews fleeing oppression in eastern Europe after 1880. This was the era of the melting-pot America, symbolized by the Statue of Liberty, which was presented to the United States by France in 1884, and inscribed with the poem by Emma Lazarus:

*Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,*

In the West, the Indians marshalled their last desperate resistance to the industrial juggernaut advancing on steel rails. One of the famous battles with the Indians after the Civil War was the stand of an army detachment, greatly outnumbered, against the Indians at Arickaree Fork on the Republican River. One of the fifty men under Gen. G. A. Forsyth's command was Samuel Schlesinger, about 19 years

old, "the little Jew" who had been accepted only reluctantly to complete the volunteer unit. He seemed to be "inferior and in all respects unfit for service," according to General Forsyth, "with small narrow shoulders, sunken chest, quiet manner and piping voice" and after 49 men had been accepted he was taken only in order to make up the necessary 50. Yet he surprised his comrades by his valor in action. The heroism of "The Little Jew" has been recorded in this verse:

*When the foe charged on the breastworks
With the madness of despair
And the bravest souls were tested,
The little Jew was there.
When the weary dozed on duty
And the wounded needed care,
When another shot was called for,
The little Jew was there.
With the festering dead around them
Shedding poison in the air,
When the crippled chieftain ordered,
The little Jew was there.*

Jews were distinguishing themselves in other fields as the century drew towards its close. Jacques Loeb was beginning to carve out a historic career in science with his work at the Rockefeller Institute of Research. Emile Berliner was carrying on the research which was to result in the invention of the phonograph record, and to play a part in the development of the telephone and radio microphone. Others by the hundreds were joining in the development of a free and mighty country.

One of the more troublesome remnants of foreign im-

perialism in the waters bordering the United States was the Spanish colony of Cuba. American trade with the island was hampered by the requirement that all cargoes destined for the West Indian island first be brought to Spain for payment of tariff. American exporters chafed at this restriction, and during the 1890's resentment began to grow into indignation. The feelings of Americans were further aroused by publication of reports of Spanish oppression of the Cubans.

The spark which ignited the powder was the sinking of the battleship Maine on February 15, 1898. Fifteen Jewish sailors were among those who went down with the ship. The executive officer of the Maine, and later a Vice-Admiral of the United States Navy, was Adolph Marix, a Jew. He was appointed chairman of a Board of Inquiry to investigate the sinking and wrote the notable report on the mysterious sinking.

After the Maine incident war fever reached a climax until on April 21st, the United States declared war against Spain.

According to best available estimates, based on a survey prepared by the late Dr. Cyrus Adler for the American Jewish Historical Society in 1900 and other sources, 5,000 Jews saw service in the war, including 100 in the navy. A good index to the number of Jews who served was the fact that the War Department granted 4,000 furloughs for the Jewish High Holy Days in 1898 following the signing of the armistice. The ratio of Jews in service is indicated (by Captain Sydney Gumpertz) in the following summary:

"The total number of American troops under arms during the Spanish-American War was 280,000, in addition to about 20,000 in the navy, or four-tenths of one percent

of the population of 74,000,000. The 5,000 Jews in service represented five-tenths of one percent of the 1,000,000 Jews in the country. Equally interesting are the casualty figures. American casualties in the army and navy were 400 killed (exclusive of those who died with the Maine), 3,000 wounded and 2,700 dead of disease, a total of 6,100, or, two percent of all men under arms. Casualties among the Jews were 29 killed, 47 wounded and 28 dead of disease, a total of 104, or two percent of the 5,000 Jews under arms."

The regiment of Rough Riders commanded by Col. Theodore Roosevelt included a large number of Jews, one of them given the nickname "Pork Chop" by his comrades. The first man to fall in the attack at Manila was Sgt. Maurice Joost of the First California Volunteers, a regiment which included more than 100 Jews. The Astor Battery of 99 men had ten Jews. Among the Jews who won special distinction during the war were:

CORP. BEN PRAGER, later to distinguish himself at the Mexican border and in the World War, won the Silver Star Medal for his performance in the Philippines. He participated in 19 important engagements and many skirmishes. His accomplishments were described in the official citation:

"When the engagement was fully opened up, Corporal Benjamin Prager and seven other soldiers from Companies A and L, 19th U. S. Infantry, moved out and charged the enemy . . . and after twice charging in the face of heavy fire, succeeded in dislodging the enemy and putting the entire force to rout. With truly soldierly spirit, the success was followed up and the enemy driven out of the city across the river and mountains."

COL. JOSEPH M. HELLER, the first volunteer accepted by the War Department in the Spanish-American War, left a thriving medical career to become acting assistant surgeon in the army. His service in the Philippines received commendation in a report from the American commander-in-chief for the islands. He served with the army in the field, as regimental surgeon in charge of a smallpox hospital and after the war, took charge of the special mission to combat the cholera epidemic in Manila. General Elwell Stephen Otis commended him by cable—the only medical officer in the Philippines to receive such recognition. After serving as lieutenant-colonel in the World War, he was awarded the Silver Star Medal with a citation that lauded his "gallantry in action against Insurgent forces at Naguilian, Luzon, Philippine Islands, December 7, 1899, in attending the wounded under fire."

ADOLPH MARIX, the executive officer of the Maine, was advanced two numbers in rating for eminent and conspicuous conduct in the engagement at Manzanillo. He was a Vice Admiral at the time of his death.

CAPT. DANIEL PEIXOTTO of the Third U. S. Volunteers was killed in the battle of El Caney.

Not all the Jews who served our country wore uniforms. Nathan Straus, New York merchant, organized a sanitary force in Cuba with refrigerating plants which helped to check the large mortality from disease. Admiral Schley expressed great appreciation for Straus' assistance.

WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS, SERVICES OF SUPPLY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

If ever in our history there was an hour which called for valor, for sacrifice, for resolution, for cooperation, for leadership.....this is the hour.

These are qualities America must have, the qualities which have been displayed by so many Jews who have participated in American wars.

Jewish soldiers, cited for bravery on the field of action, dot the honor rolls of our country. In the first World War 1100 Jews won ribbons of distinction and the gratitude of their country. Such names as Kaufman, Comperts, Sawelson, Rosenfeld, Silberberg, Swaab, Shefrin, Bernheimer, Marx and Cohen will never be forgotten.

From Valley Forge to Guadalcanal, our fighting men have never let us down. We expect valor from them and they have every right to expect equal courage from us. Every man, every woman, every child of America is enlisted. None is exempt. We cannot waste our time. We cannot waste our energy. We cannot waste our materials.

We must resolve that we will never be broken into factions or blocs. We must resolve that we will not permit rivalries and prejudices to separate us.

America fights its wars as a united nation. There are no farmers or city folk, no labor or management, no Republicans or Democrats. There are no lines of color, race or creed.

Yes, given these qualities of valor, of sacrifice, of resolution, of cooperation, of leadership, America is invincible. ~~But this alone serve and serve well the purpose for which it is~~ ~~part which Jews have played in American wars.~~


EBERON SOMERVELL,
Lieutenant General,
Commanding.





WORLD WAR I

IT WAS 1917. The United States was again at war, this time against a ruthless foreign enemy who had sunk its ships, plotted its downfall, and given every indication that it was out on a course of conquest to embrace the entire world.

We were at war and in millions of homes all over the United States families were feeling the impact of war.

In one New York City home this impact was being felt most strongly.

Mrs. Gustave Jacobson had seven sons and a daughter. Shortly after the declaration of war her oldest son, Gustave A. Jacobson, enlisted in the army. Then Harry and Samuel joined the Signal Corps. Simon signed up with a gas contingent. Benjamin joined the 305th Artillery. Jack enlisted in the aviation branch of the service. Of her seven sons, only Daniel, not yet 15, remained home. Within a year Mrs. Jacobson received word that Harry had been killed, Simon had been wounded and promoted to a sergeant, and Jacob had been injured in an airplane crash.

Suddenly, the boy, Daniel, disappeared. A police search for him proved fruitless. He seemed to have dropped completely out of sight. When the Armistice came, five

of the six sons Mrs. Jacobson had sent to the army returned, two of them wounded. And one Sabbath eve Daniel returned, too. He had gotten himself accepted in the Marine Corps by changing his name and falsifying his age.

The Jacobsons were a simple, modest family. Had not war come to their country, the sons might never have been known to any beyond the circle of friends and business associates. But war did come to their country and they turned willingly and earnestly to its defense. To offer seven sons to the service of a country was a tremendous sacrifice and yet the Jacobsons made it unflinchingly, just as Christian and Jewish families in thousands of American homes sent their loved members off to the war. It was not an unnatural thing for all these Americans: they loved their country and they were going to defend it and the ideals which had inspired its growth and which undergird its greatness.

These ideals had a special meaning for Jews. They had deep roots in this country, as we have shown, but they were no longer the handful of past years. The American Jewish population by 1917 had grown to 3,389,000, much of it still new enough to be called jocularly "greenhorn." But the only thing really new about these people was the date of their arrival; their passionate devotion to the ideals of liberty and justice was old. And when they saw the promise of America suddenly transmuted into a campaign to make it possible for these ideals to be extended and enjoyed by many more, the American Jews knew that it was their fight, too. Their record as part of the community is as noble as any made by fellow Americans. And it was a great thing to see, too. For these East Side Boys, many of them foreign-born, showed that being an American was something they took mighty seriously.

Shortly after the outbreak of the war, Congressman Julius Kahn of California, chairman of the House Military Affairs Committee drew the first draft number from a glass bowl. At that time he made the pledge and a tribute, when he said:

"I desire to congratulate my co-religionists on the splendid showing they are making in the matter of serving our country in this war. Many of the boys who go to the front will be wounded. Many of them will be killed. But Jews at all periods of the world's history have been ready to make the supreme sacrifice whenever the land that gives them shelter demands it. I know that I voice the sentiment of the overwhelming majority of the Jews of the United States when I say we will do our share toward keeping Old Glory floating proudly in the skies so that it may continue to shelter under its folds the downtrodden and the oppressed of every land."

The pledge was taken up by the entire Jewish community.

The best measure of this pledge is the story of Jewish soldiers whose exploits still thrill us, who now witness and participate in a greater struggle on a scale that almost dwarfs the war of 1917-1918. But valor is an imperishable quality. Its retelling always has meaning. The names of Jewish men fighting in 1917-1918 appeared almost daily on the rolls of the wounded and dead; their exploits became known. Their citations and awards for bravery increased. Let us recall some of them so that we may know that here were Americans and men.

There was SGT. BENJAMIN KAUFMAN. He was a quiet likable chap who had grown up in Brooklyn, N. Y. No doubt during his days at P. S. 149, and Erasmus Hall High

School, he used to root for the Dodgers; there may have even been a touch of Brooklynese in his speech. For awhile he attended Syracuse University and probably yelled himself hoarse at the annual tussle against Colgate's Red Raiders. But these things were only of momentary significance, for Ben Kaufman found himself facing a foe more dangerous than a neighborhood kid who favored the Giants or a Colgate sophomore who insisted that his team could beat the Syracuse Orange. Yes, Ben Kaufman like many another American chap in 1917 found that his country needed him to fight for it.

And Ben Kaufman fought! Indeed, he fought so well and bravely that nine allied governments honored him for his heroism in battle! The folks back in Brooklyn and Syracuse could well be proud of Ben Kaufman.

Ben took to army life at once. He starred in sports at camp and won a ranking as Sergeant of Company K, 308th Infantry. The boys in his company knew Ben for what he was: a tough soldier and a swell guy. They called him "the best Top Kick in the A. E. F." And they meant it, too, and Ben knew they meant it because he twice refused the honor of a commission which would have meant leaving the regiment and his company.

He was no "Sunday punch" champion. He had courage. Blinded by a gas shell during an engagement in France while aiding in the rescue of several of his men, Ben dodged the medical detail and groped his way to see how his company was getting on. The doctors finally caught up with him and sent him to a hospital. In spite of his injury, Ben felt that a hospital was no place for a fighting man. He decided to leave and join his company. Borrowing a uniform he made his way back to his unit, only

to find that he was faced with a court martial. It must have struck him funny—being court martialled for trying to fight! His officers must have seen it Ben's way, too, for soon he was back with his men, and although a bit rusty after his hospitalization he showed that his courage was tarnished not at all.

On October 4, 1918, Kaufman was out on his company's advance in the Argonne. Suddenly he discovered that he and two privates had been separated from the patrol. Within a few minutes the privates were wounded. Kaufman was alone. A German machine gun was chattering up ahead. The American decided it needed silencing, but before he could bring his own gun into play an enemy bullet shattered his right arm. But Ben Kaufman still had use of his left arm and use it he did. Lobbing hand grenades toward the Germans, he advanced all alone upon the machine gun. He took one prisoner, scattered the crew and brought his prisoner back to the American lines. Weak from the loss of blood, Kaufman fainted but not before he revealed that the gun with which he had effected the surrender of the Germans was empty! No wonder then that nine governments heaped awards upon him, or that his own country gave him the Congressional Medal of Honor. Today, Ben Kaufman is National Commander of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States.

But Ben Kaufman's story was only one of a piece. There were many others. Here are some more of them:

SGT. WILLIAM SAWELSON, killed in action, received a Congressional Medal of Honor, posthumously. At Grand Pre, on October 26, 1918, Sergeant Sawelson looked out from his shelter and heard the cry of a wounded buddy. He crawled out amid the heavy firing to minister to the

wounded soldier, and was turning back to get some water for him when a machine gun bullet killed him.

SGT. SYDNEY GUMPERTZ. On September 26, 1918, at Bois de Forges, the 132nd Infantry was being raked with shells from a machine-gun nest. Sergeant Gumpertz and two men of his company went out amid a heavy barrage to silence the gun. The bursting shells took one, then the other of Gumpertz's companions. Alone, he continued his advance while the machine-gun blazed at him. He succeeded in jumping into the machine-gun nest, silencing the gun and single-handed, making the crew of nine helpless. For his valor, he too, was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

CORP. BARNEY SALNER. No hero of the Marne could point to a service more glorious. After being wounded and sent to a hospital, he insisted on rejoining his unit and escaped from the hospital to do so. At one time he was responsible for a battalion's rescue. Maj. Jesse W. Wooldrige, in his book, *Giants of the Marne*, relates the story:

"Corporal Barney Salner led his squad in a fierce attack against a much heavier force and, although several times wounded, continued to give encouragement to his men. He prevented penetration between us and H company to our right. Soon lesser wounded men were taking back prisoners. I motioned to them to carry the wounded Salner. As he passed, I remarked, intending it for myself: 'There goes my last non-com.' He opened his eyes, loosened the tense muscles of his jaws and said, 'Like hell, Captain! I'll be with you again.' I admired his spunk, but thought he was done for. Eight weeks later, Barney Salner deserted from a base hospital, stole rides and sneaked his

way across the country until he found us going into the St. Mihiel salient. The boy reported to me, then Major, for duty, filthy, ragged and starved, with a festering wound on his stomach larger than your entire hand. 'Don't send me back, Major,' he pleaded. 'I want to be with the outfit.'

"I assigned him to battalion headquarters on light duty, simply riding a wagon and under the surgeon's care. He could have remained there for the rest of the war, but as we were moving to the Argonne and making ready for the opening attack, he reported to me with his wound healed, although tender and red, and asked to be assigned to the old company. This took him from my command, mind you, as I then had the First Battalion. He was assigned as a sergeant and I again forgot him.

"A month later . . . the Second Battalion had been shot to ribbons by flank fire from the Vois de Cunel and Romagne Wood and, though I organized for flank defense, the resistance became too severe on the right and I was about to suffer the disgrace of failing in my mission without calling for support, when Barney Salner saw me struggling with the right flank defense. On his own initiative, actuated by a soldier's devotion and loyalty, and in the absence of his officers, who had been killed, he led G Company out of its support position, commanded its maneuver and brought it into a bayonet charge that cleared our right, saved my battalion from disaster and enabled us to crack the Hindenburg line.

"Salner was again shot to pieces, and, though he lives today twisted and knotted in pain, bone-grafted and nerve-shattered, you will see the old spirit and fire in his eyes, and his hat proudly in hand when the flag goes by."

WILLIAM SHEMIN was awarded the D. S. C. and

Silver Star for heroic conduct under fire. The official citation reads: "William Shemin, Sergeant, Company G, 47th Infantry. For extraordinary heroism in action on the Vesle River, near Baczoches, August 7, 8, 9, 1918. Sergeant Shemin upon three different occasions left cover and crossed an open space of 150 yards, exposed to heavy machine-gun fire, to rescue wounded. After officers and senior non-commissioned officers had become casualties, Sergeant Shemin took command of the platoon and displayed great initiative under fire until wounded August 9."

DAVID BROWN enlisted at the age of 16 and immediately was assigned to the Second Division, arriving in France in December, 1917. He served with that division throughout its active career in France, participating in all of its operations. In the action at Mount Blanc he earned special distinction and the following citation: "While the Second Division was being engaged with the enemy on October 5, 1918, near Blanc Mont Ridge, Sergeant David Brown, Headquarters Detachment, then private, volunteered to deliver a very important message, acting as liaison runner to the advance post. His way lay across an open field which was being heavily shelled constantly, and, in advancing he was thrown down by concussions from shells close to him. In spite of this, he continued on his way, without thought of personal danger or of taking cover, and succeeded in delivering the message."

Subsequently the Sergeant, still in his teens, received the Croix de Guerre and Silver Star for gallantry in the St. Mihiel sector.

PVT. HENRY A. KAUFFMAN, of West Philadelphia, a member of Battery F, Seventh Field Artillery, had the distinction of having the D. S. C. pinned on his chest

by General Pershing. The citation notes that "While manning a piece during the engagement at Cantigny under heavy fire, a bullet took off one of his fingers. He nevertheless stayed on and continued to help load and fire until severely wounded and removed from the field."

CORP. HYMAN SILVERMAN, Company E, 60th Infantry, received the D. S. C. "for extraordinary heroism in action near Verdun. When enemy shell fire had ignited an ammunition dump, Corporal—then Private—Silverman assisted in removing the ammunition from the blazing dump. Several of his comrades were seriously wounded by exploding shells and he himself was hit by hand grenade explosions, but he continued until the greater part of the explosives were moved to safety. He then assisted in removing the wounded comrades before submitting to treatment for wounds."

CORP. LOUIS ABEND, one of the youngest soldiers to be honored with a decoration, enlisted when he was only 15 years old, serving first on the Mexican border. He landed in France in 1917, a private in the First Division, after three years' service on the U. S. border. The night before the attack on Cantigny, the Germans had raided the American line, with heavy losses on both sides. The morning of May 28, 1918, the town was captured with about 800 prisoners, but the American casualties were heavy, all of the officers of the American battalion having been either killed or wounded. The 18-year-old Corporal Abend took command and repulsed several attacks by the enemy. The D. S. C. citation reads: "Louis Abend, Corporal, Company M, 28th Infantry. When all the officers in his battalion became casualties, Corporal Abend voluntarily took command, reorganized the battalion and repulsed three powerful coun-

ter-attacks launched by the enemy. He kept his men so well in hand that they suffered very little losses during the attack."

Later, at the Battle of Somme, Abend won another decoration from the French Government, for his heroism in saving the life of a French officer under fire. Although wounded in the left hand, he administered first aid to the captain of the French company and carried him to a shell hole for shelter. For this, he was presented with a Croix de Guerre by General Petain.

Corporal Abend served with the Army of Occupation in Germany, until he was chosen as a member of General Pershing's regiment, a unit consisting of picked men from the six regular army divisions. They were paraded in Brussels, London, Paris, Washington and New York.

CORP. JACOB COUSINS. For gallantry in the Argonne, Corporal Cousins was awarded a posthumous citation of the Silver Star. When the lieutenant leading his platoon was killed, Corporal Cousins assumed command, prevented the wavering of the line in its advance and led the platoon with coolness and bravery until he fell.

JEAN MATHIAS, private, 43rd Company, Fifth Regiment, Marine Corps, Second Division, wears the Distinguished Service Cross, the Croix de Guerre with Gilt Star, awarded by the French Government, and the Naval Cross for Distinguished Service. The citation reads: "For extraordinary heroism in action in the Bois de Billeau, France, June 11, 1918. After all the other members of his group had been killed or wounded by fire from the enemy machine-guns, Private Mathias charged the gun position alone, killing three of the crew and capturing the gun."

PVT. ABE LEVENSON. Company G, 167th Infantry,

was the target of a German machine-gun crew on the memorable day of July 7, 1918, when Germany was making a last desperate stand at Chateau Thierry. At the foot of Hill 212, Private Levenson was posted as lookout by his company. He observed the enemy bringing forward two machine guns through the wheat fields. Waiting until he saw the guns within close range, and aimed at his company, he charged the position alone and killed or disabled both gun crews, saving his company from heavy loss of life. For this, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross and the Croix de Guerre.

Some months later, in the Argonne, Levenson was so severely wounded on the battlefield, that the surgeon was reluctant to remove him in the ambulance. The chaplain, however, prevailed upon the surgeon to remove Levenson. He was almost totally paralyzed and was believed dead. His family was notified of his "death." Miraculously, Private Levenson recovered.

SGT. BENJAMIN SHAPIRO, Company A, 104th Infantry, 26th Division. In his *History of the War*, Frank Silberry, writes: "he did the stunt that was accepted by our Allies as typical of the American soldier. He captured a German machine-gun single-handed. Only one of the German crew got away. Shapiro killed the rest of them."

The heroism of Sergeant Shapiro was not confined to one engagement. On July 23, 1918, in the Belleau Woods, he was wounded, but returned from the base hospital in time to take part in the St. Mihiel drive of September 12. In that attack, when his company's progress was being retarded, he volunteered to clear the entanglement in the face of heavy machine-gun fire, thus enabling his company to continue the advance.

Again in the Argonne Forest, just before a planned attack by his brigade, his company was ordered to clear a section of woods filled with machine-gun nests. This was to have been a surprise attack. It developed, however, that the Germans were ready and the American troops themselves were caught in confusion. Yet Shapiro, with great presence of mind, noting the rim of the helmet of a German soldier, rushed forward and completely surprised an entire German machine-gun crew, capturing the gun and killing all but one of the crew. He received the Croix de Guerre for this act, with the following citation: "A brave and daring non-commissioned officer who, on October 16, 1918, in the Boise de Beaumont, attacked a machine-gun nest alone and captured the piece after having killed the gunners."

CORP. HYMAN YARNIS, of Company C, 16th Infantry, Fifth Division, who enlisted at the age of 18, participated in every engagement of the division, including St. Mihiel, Meuse, Argonne and Verdun, received the Croix de Guerre and the Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster, as well as the Distinguished Service Cross. Corporal Yarnis volunteered for an attack on a machine-gun position which was menacing the line by fire from the left flank. In the encounter he was wounded by a grenade. Despite the wound, he advanced on the enemy position and killed the gun crew. He then moved on a second machine-gun position and was wounded again, but captured the crew of the second nest, sparing all save one who attempted to resist.

CORP. LEO KLEBANOW, of Company E, 307th Infantry, 77th Division, received two citations for three different acts of extraordinary heroism. On August 27, 1918, at Le Chateau Diable, says the War Department citation, after several runners had failed to deliver an im-

portant message during an attack, Corporal Klebanow voluntarily took the message from the battalion commander to a flank company, through intense machine-gun and shell fire. After returning through the same bombardment with the reply, he led reinforcements forward. "As a result of the reinforcements, the company was enabled successfully to resist a counter-attack by superior forces. Earlier in the same day, under direct machine-gun fire, he voluntarily went to the aid of a wounded officer, bound up his wounds and assisted him to shelter."

CORP. ALFRED M. E. MEYEROWITZ received the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism at Samogneaux on November 3, 1918. Meyerowitz, who had served with the Rhode Island National Guard on the Mexican border, rejoined his outfit immediately after America's entry into the World War. The unit was C Battery, 103rd Field Artillery, 26th Division. The citation for Meyerowitz declares that he went, "under terrific shell fire, to repair an important telephone wire. While in the performance of his duty, he was seriously wounded in the arm. However, he persisted in his search for the break, without thought of obtaining medical assistance. He went to the end of the line and then returned, still watching for new breaks, although his arm was by this time hanging limp and useless at his side."

DR. BENJAMIN JACOBSON, attached to the medical detachment of the 141st Infantry, 36th Division, was decorated by Marshal Petain for exceptional bravery in the treatment of wounded under heavy shell fire. -

LT. BENJAMIN B. PRAGER, a veteran of the Spanish-American War, set a new record of heroism. When war was declared he became first sergeant of Company E, 111th

Infantry, 28th Division. On August 11, 1918, at Le Chat-eau Diable near Fismes, his regiment found itself harassed by machine-gun fire from a cleverly hidden German nest. Taking a squad of soldiers and an automatic rifle, he went ahead of the line to a house on a hill. Ordering the rest of the detachment to remain outside, Lieutenant Prager entered the house with one companion and then proceeded to locate the nest by showing himself at the window and locating the source of the fire directed against him. Prager and his men then succeeded in capturing the enemy crew.

PFC. JACK HERSCHKOWITZ, whose heroism won him a D. S. C., Croix de Guerre with Palm, Medaille Militaire and the Conspicuous Medal of New York State. His citation for the Distinguished Service Cross reads:

"Private, first class, Company C, 308th Infantry, 77th Division. In order to obtain ammunition and rations, Private Herschkowitz, with another soldier, accompanied an officer in an effort to reestablish communication between battalion and regimental headquarters. They were attacked by a small party of Germans, but drove them off, killing one. When night came they crawled unknowingly into the center of a German camp, where they lay for three hours undetected. Finally discovered, they made a dash to escape. In order to protect the officer, Private Herschkowitz deliberately drew the enemy fire to himself, allowing the officer to escape. Private Herschkowitz succeeded in getting through and delivering his message the next morning."

What made these people—and these are only single examples of a tidal wave of self-sacrifice and devotion—what made them what they were?

Behind them lay a significant development of history.

From the late 19th century down to the war of 1917-1918 a large wave of immigration from Europe touched these shores. Many of the immigrants came from Eastern and Central Europe, from lands in which the Jew often lived a life of persecution, suppression, terror, even a fate of pogroms. From that quagmire they came to this country to find the American dream, the American tradition of freedom, of equality for all men, of fair play and substantially fair practice. No wonder they responded. No wonder they poured on in the hundreds of thousands first as enlisted men later as draftees to go to the defense of their country.

There were top notchers among these East side youngsters whose names would later ring throughout the country. One of these, a thin, little lad, Irving Berlin by name, made the tunes that lightened that war. But the overwhelming number of them were simple people taken from their businesses, from the factories, from the shops.

SGT. SAM DREBEN, the almost legendary "Fighting Jew," is destined for a very special place in the annals of the World War. Fate seemed to have cast him in the role that Frauenthal occupied in the Confederate army during the Civil War.

Dreben, once a fugitive from Czarist pogroms in Russia, knew how to face enemy legions without flinching. Coming to America, he tried his hand at various jobs, but failed to adjust himself. Finally, he turned to the army and here he found his career. He fought in the Spanish-American War, in the Philippine insurrection and later in the Boxer rebellion in China.

When President Wilson sent troops to the border under "Black Jack" Pershing to nab Villa, Dreben returned to uniform and joined General Pershing. Dreben was familiar

with the state of Chihuahua, through which the fleeing Villistas sought to escape. Undoubtedly the high opinion General Pershing always held for him stemmed from Dreben's services in Mexico.

With the Mexican situation cleared up, Sam Dreben again became a private citizen, but not for long. With the first Yankee troops going overseas to fight Germany went Sam Dreben.

It was the day at St. Etienne, which his comrades like best to remember. For days a German machine-gun crew nest had been menacing the American lines. The artillery had tried unsuccessfully to destroy it. Dreben watched for several days and then calculated he could master the situation. Single-handed, he rushed the enemy post and killed 23 of the 40 Germans. He received the Distinguished Service Cross for that act.

ABRAHAM KROTOSHINSKY, private in the 77th Division, won the Distinguished Service Cross and wrote a gallant chapter in the history of the war, by his role in saving the "Lost Battalion." The green private, who enlisted in the army five years after immigrating to the United States from Plotzk, Poland, succeeded in passing through the German lines which had encircled his battalion and were threatening it with annihilation. Krotoshinsky has written his own account of the adventure, from which we quote:

"As a matter of record, we should begin with the drive of November 2, 1918, when the Americans tried to clear out the Argonne Forest, which was infested with German machine-guns. Our battalion, under Colonel Whittlesey was following behind the main attack and made sure that all machine-gun nests were cleared. We thought we had the enemy running and we followed up our advantage by crossing the

German first-line trenches. But the Germans had led us into their own territory and were now busy surrounding us and opening fire upon us from the front and back. Our communications with headquarters were severed and, to make matters worse, the Americans, concentrated fire on our trenches, as well as upon the German lines.

"We were in the anomalous situation of being attacked by all armies. Without food or water, with ammunition greatly reduced, our only hope remained in getting in touch with the main branch of the American division. For five days and nights, man after man left the shelter of our bombarded lines, crawled out into the open, only to serve as doomed targets for the deadly fire of the German marksmen.

"Thirty-six men in all plunged into the open, but all were either killed or captured. Our situation appeared—and was—desperate, and almost hopeless. Despite that we refused to surrender.

"Again a request was made for volunteers. I stepped forward. Another soldier who was sent with me, was forced to return soon after. I continued alone. I started out at daybreak, but it did not take me long to become aware that I was a target for the Germans. I ran across an open space and down a valley and up a hill into some bushes. I remember crawling, lying under the bushes, digging myself into holes. Somehow or other—I don't know how to this day—I found myself at night in German trenches. I hid under some bushes, lying prone and acting dead. Later I crawled into another deserted German trench. You can imagine the thrill I got when I heard good English words. No music ever sounded better. But even now I had to face the problem of first convincing them that I was a friend. I did not know the password. I began shout-

ing, 'Hello!' After several minutes of yelling, a scouting group of American soldiers found me and took me to headquarters where I delivered my message, giving them the position and condition of our battalion. We needed medical assistance and food, I told them.

"Orders were immediately given to stop firing on the Americans and I was sent out ahead with the relief squad which carried medical supplies and food. When we reached the company, they were certainly surprised to see me."

GEN. ABEL DAVIS played an important part in the World War. Davis was born in Chicago and began his career as an errand boy in a department store. His military record started in the Spanish-American War in which he served as a private. "Mustered out, he returned to Chicago and became a successful business man and banker. As a major in the old Dandy First Illinois Infantry, he went to the Mexican border in 1916. When the United States entered the World War he went to France as colonel of the 132d Illinois Infantry. Under fire for six months before the Armistice, General Davis led his regiment in the fighting at Amiens, the Meuse-Argonne offensive and in the fighting at St. Hilaire. For repulsing an enemy attack at this point, General Davis won the Distinguished Service Medal and also the ribbon of an officer of the French Legion of Honor. At the close of the War he became a brigadier-general in the Illinois National Guard."

COL. MILTON J. FOREMAN, later major-general of the Illinois National Guard, was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, for personally advancing, "by creeping through a heavy enemy barrage to a point in the infantry front line where he could, by a direct visual observation, locate the position of the enemy machine guns. Remaining

at his post, exposed to terrific hostile bombardment, he transmitted information to the artillery and directed their fire." He helped organize and later became the first National Commander of the American Legion.

BRIG.-GEN. CHARLES HENRY LAUCHHEIMER. A native of Baltimore, General Lauchheimer was born in 1859 and appointed to Annapolis in 1877. Upon graduation in 1883, he was assigned to the Marine Corps. He went up the ranks and finally was appointed a brigadier-general in 1916. He served with the Marine Corps for 37 years until his death on January 14, 1920.

On Armistice Day, 1920, General Lauchheimer was posthumously awarded the Navy Distinguished Service Medal for "exceptionally meritorious service in a duty of great responsibility in the organization and administration of the Adjutant and Inspector's Department of the U. S. Marine Corps throughout the period of the World War. Through his energy and efficient management this Department was able successfully to meet the greatly increased burdens and responsibilities placed upon it."

We can mention only briefly some of the other Jewish soldiers enshrined in the history of the war's heroic exploits. Clarence Baer was the first American to receive the medal of the Reconnaissance Francaise. Joseph Berg, lookout at Chateau Thierry during heavy artillery fire, succeeded in putting three machine-gun crews out of commission. Merrill Rosenfeld met death at Verdun leading a detachment to silence a machine-gun nest. Morris Silver, George Westenberg and Bernard Neitelbarren went into the open fields under constant shell-fire to rescue wounded comrades.

Sam Arnstein and Axel Berman of the Engineer Corps

were decorated for continuing at their bridge-building in the thick of concentrated attack. Peter Zion, bayoneted and with a slashed arm, scorned to have his wounds dressed until his platoon had gained its objective. Isaac Hirsch and Louis Perstein, voluntary stretcher-bearers, were decorated for bringing wounded comrades through shell-fire. Julius Goldstein guided a lost company back to the lines at Chateau Diable. Samuel Block, after numerous others had been shot down, carried a message through an artillery barrage. Jacob Kaplan, crawling out in advance of the first line, close to an enemy machine-gun nest, sent signals that directed the destruction of German guns. Nathan Lieberman rushed a machine-gun nest, taking four prisoners. John Blohn, seeing a wounded comrade dragging himself through the grass, left the protection of a shell hole to rescue the soldier, conveying him to a partial shelter behind a tree to bind his wounds, swam with the unconscious man across the river, and carried him through machine-gun fire to our lines.

Jacques Schwaab, Roy Manzer and Louis Bernheimer of the Air Corps, attacked hostile planes, reconnoitered behind enemy lines and otherwise participated in some of the most daring air exploits of the war. Julius Toelken surprised a gun crew and then turned the fire of their own gun upon the foe. Abraham Cohen was cited for bringing aid to wounded soldiers after three others had failed owing to the heavy gun fire.

Last but not least, let mention be made of Albert Cohen, youngest soldier in the A. E. F., who enlisted at the age of thirteen and fell during the Meuse-Argonne offensive.

The finest tributes to the Jewish soldiers in the Amer-

ican Army were paid by their officers. Here are some of them:

Captain Harrigan, the 307th Infantry, said:

"Too much cannot be said for the boys who went across from the East Side. They stood out for conspicuous bravery and utter disregard of self when they went up against the Germans in France. I wish I could remember all the things that came to my attention when we were in action. About 40 percent of my division were Jews and what fighters they were! They put into their fighting some of the same qualities that the Jew puts into his business or professional work. The Jewish boys of the 77th would go after a concealed German battery just as they would go after the conquest of some business difficulty—and they would get it!"

And Colonel Whittlesey, hero of the Lost Battalion" in the Argonne, paid tribute in these words:

"I feel reluctant to comment on the bravery of the East Side men, for it is something we have learned to take for granted. But some of them stand out so unforgettably in the memory that it is impossible not to speak of them. There was one man, for example, who seemed the worst possible soldier material, thick-set, stolid-looking, extremely alien in face and speech, and yet on the day we were holding the bank of the Vesle, he performed feats as a runner that, to my mind, place him in the front ranks. To communicate with our command, it was necessary to send a runner up hill and down hill, through a thick underbrush, in a terrain that would have been difficult to cover under ordinary circumstances. Under fire this became almost impossible, yet this boy volunteered four different times, and, using reserves of wit and cunning, of physical pluck and nervous endurance

that no one would have suspected him to possess, made the trip successfully every time."

Maj. Gen. Clarence R. Edwards, 26th Division:

"I remember instances of formerly intolerant Gentiles who asked that Jews be made officers in order that they might be their leaders."

From Gen. John J. Pershing came this unsolicited but heartfelt comment:

"When the time came to serve their country under arms, no class of people served with more patriotism or with higher motives than the young Jews who volunteered or were drafted and who went overseas with our other young Americans. I well remember in my inspections of New York divisions seeing so many patriotic, well-disciplined, well-behaved young Jewish soldiers, whose commanders spoke of them in the highest terms."

Back home in America, the Jews also rendered distinguished service in carrying on the war. The first mobilization of the civilian resources of the nation were entrusted to the Advisory Council of National Defense, a body of seven men which shaped and directed the multitudinous contacts of the government with industry, business and the daily life of the people, and from which emanated all the ideas which might be utilized for perfecting the civilian front and making it capable of bearing the hardships of war.

Among the seven men who headed this civilian front were Bernard M. Baruch, Samuel Gompers and Julius Rosenwald. Later, when the Advisory Council was reorganized as the War Industries Board, Baruch became its chairman. Felix M. Frankfurter, now Associate Justice of the U. S. Supreme Court, served as secretary and counsel

to the Mediation Commission which allayed conflicts in vital war industries, and later as Assistant Secretary of War in charge of coordinating the activities of the production section with those of the Department of Labor. The war savings stamp idea was originated by Manny Straus, and the scheme of war risk insurance was worked out by S. Herbert Wolfe. Eugene Meyer was a member of the War Finance Commission and Albert Lasker served on the Shipping Board. The late Julius Stieglitz rendered invaluable services in developing war gases and substitutes for German dyes and chemicals. The Jewish Welfare Board was organized in 1917 to meet war needs. This organization established 200 centers with 500 workers in the training camps and 57 overseas centers behind the trenches. Among the chaplains at the front were 30 rabbis.

A SUMMARY OF THE WAR RECORD OF AMERICAN JEWS 1917-18

Total population of the United States in 1917.....	103,690,473
Jewish population in the United States in 1917	3,389,000
Total number in the armed services of the United States	4,355,000
Jews serving in the armed forces of the U. S. (about)....	250,000
Percentage of Jews to the total population	3.27%
Percentage of Jews in our armed forces.....	5.73%

Jews serving in the U. S. Army were distributed in the different branches as follows:

Infantry	35.7%
Artillery	11.6%
Cavalry	1.5%
Engineers	4.2%
Signal and Aviation.....	6.5%
Ordnance	2.4%
Medical	11.6%
Quartermaster	8.9%
Other Branches	17.6%

Casualties

Dead (Approximately)	3,500
Wounded (Approximately)	12,000

Commissioned Officers

Army—Generals	1
Colonels and Lieutenant Colonels	94
Majors	404
Captains	1,504
Lieutenants	6,000
Navy—Miscellaneous (including one admiral)	1,013
Marines—Miscellaneous (including one general).....	161
Total.....	9,177

Decorations

Congressional Medal of Honor	3
Distinguished Service Medals and Crosses	147
Other decorations and citations	982
Total.....	1,132

VI

WAR FOR SURVIVAL

THE military contribution of the Jews during the war of 1917-18 were often, as can be seen from the language of the officers who voiced them, contributions of "East Side boys." They were testimonials to a section of the American population that was little known, not yet fully integrated, most of them first generation Americans. These circumstances made their devotion to their adopted land all the more remarkable.

In the global war in which we are now involved, a different kind of Jewish community is participating. In the intervening years, Jews of the United States had developed and matured. The process of Americanization had proceeded unfailingly. The immigrants had made their adaptation. Their children, now grown into adults, were native born, products of American schools and an American environment. They differed from their fellow Americans only in the traditionally acceptable American difference which leaves to each man the free exercise of his religious convictions.

The Jews are better known too. American Christians had come to know American Jews in their day by day life, as fellow workers and fellow civilians, as neighbors in the baseball bleachers and on the football field; as colleagues

in business; as co-cheerers at the political rallies of all parties.

But a dark cloud had come up to obscure this picture of normal Americans at work and at play. Nazi propaganda appeared; propaganda designed to split up this country and to render it helpless against, first the diplomatic, and later the military machinations of a predatory Germany bent on world conquest. With characteristic cunning, Nazi agitation tried to conjure up a distorted, malignant picture of the American Jew and to alienate from him his Catholic and Protestant fellow citizens.

The crafty Nazi device worked—in part. It succeeded in some measure in introducing on these shores the poisonous European weed of bigotry and while the good judgment of Americans was struggling to reassert itself, the war broke out with the unspeakable attack upon Pearl Harbor. Thereafter in the comradeship of a common struggle for survival, in the day by day contact of living together in the greatest duty of citizenship, defense of country, the authentic picture began to emerge from the obscurity created by the Nazis.

There are no figures to be totalled up on Jews in the armed services. We are still in the war and our War and Navy Departments quite properly do not give information on the basis of the religious convictions of the fighting men and women.

The War Department on several occasions has declared that statistics on religious groupings in the army will be available only at the conclusion of hostilities. It has said, nevertheless, that religious groups today have the same proportions in the army as their ratio in the general population.

The position of the War Department in this connection is summed up in two statements. The first is from the

Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. C. S. Adams, issued on December 5, 1941:

"The Department has no statistics for dissemination on the subject. Religious affiliations and denominational preference are approximately the same in the Army as in civilian life. The current strength of the Army is a fair cross-section of American life in all its phases, including religion."

The second is from the Chief of Chaplains, Brig. Gen. William P. Arnold, issued on December 22, 1941:

"It is believed that the present strength of the Army is a sufficiently large cross-section of American life in all its phases, including religious preferences, to warrant the assumption that the religious preferences of soldiers in the Army are the same as in civil life."

But better than figures or cold statistical charts are the human stories of men actually on the fighting line. These stories, though necessarily incomplete, are worth recording, because they are the stuff of the American saga to which these Jewish men contribute a magnificent chapter.

Do you remember the last days of Corregidor? Those agonizing hours and months just before the Japanese deluge overwhelmed the tiny American force left on the rocky isle in the harbor of Manila Bay. Do you remember the last message coming dimly through to receiving sets in the United States:

"They are not yet near," were the first words. "We are waiting for God only knows what. How about a chocolate soda? Not many. Not near yet. Lots of heavy fighting going on. We've only got about one hour, twenty minutes before? . . . We may have to give up by noon. We don't

know yet. They are throwing men and shells at us and we may not be able to stand it. They have been shelling us faster than you can count . . .

"We've got about fifty-five minutes, and I feel sick at my stomach. I am really low down. They [U. S. soldiers] are around us now smashing rifles. They bring in the wounded every minute. We will be waiting for you guys to help. This is the only thing I guess that can be done. General Wainwright is a right guy and we are willing to go on for him, but shells were dropping all night, faster than hell. Damage terrific. Too much for guys to take.

"Enemy heavy cross-shelling and bombing. They have got us all around and from skies. From here it looks like firing ceased on both sides. Men here all feeling bad, because of terrific nervous strain of the siege. Corregidor used to be a nice place, but it's haunted now. Withstood a terrific pounding. Just made broadcast to Manila to arrange meeting for surrender. Talk made by Gen. [Louis C.] Beebe. I can't say much.

"I can hardly think. Can't think at all. Say, I have sixty pesos you can have for this weekend. The jig is up. Everyone is bawling like a baby. They are piling dead and wounded in our tunnel. Arms weak from pounding key long hours, no rest, short rations. Tired. I know now how a mouse feels. Caught in a trap waiting for guys to come along finish it. Got a treat. Can of pineapple. Opening it with Signal Corps knife.

"My name Irving Strobinger. Get this to my mother. Mrs. Minnie Strobinger, 605 Barbey Street, Brooklyn, New York. They are to get along O. K. Get in touch with them soon as possible. Message. My love to Pa, Joe, Sue, Mac, Carry, Joy and Paul. Also to all family and friends. God

bless 'em all, hope they be here when I come home. Tell Joe wherever he is to give 'em hell for us. My love to all. God bless you and keep you. Love.

"Sign my name and tell mother how you heard from me. Stand by . . ."

"My name is Irving Strobing." Another simple American remembering even in his last message before capture by the Japanese to "tell Joe to give them hell for us."

And do you remember, as a contrast to the agonizing broadcast from Corregidor, the first reports of the landing in North Africa? Grim and impressive and encouraging as that full story was with its stretch of hundreds of heroic episodes, there was also included the story of Corporal Bernard J. Kessel and some buddies.

Kessel's story concerns a General Grant tank that barged into a North African city ahead of all the others. Inside of that tank was Corporal Kessel, of Brooklyn, N. Y., who couldn't "even fix a lamp when he was at home, he was so unhandy mechanically," according to his astonished mother. In fact, the hero of the Oran invasion is a southpaw—he eats, writes and plays ball with his left hand.

Kessel's tank became separated from the main column and entered Oran alone. It smashed into a road block obstructing the road to an airport, and ran head-on into a mobile 75 mm. gun. "We had no time to load our own cannon," the corporal explained, "so we rammed him full speed. Behind him we saw a line of motor vehicles two blocks long, so we ran along the edge of the road and smashed the whole lot into the ditch." The tank then proceeded into Oran proper, Kessel at the gun, and opened fire in all directions, becoming, in turn, the target for a

volley of hostile fire. "We owe our lives to that Grant," Kessel declared.

From the town of Oran let us move to the Oran beach where Capt. Milton Simons, on November 16th, was to be found delivering the goods. It is probable that the Oran invaders owed their regular meals to Captain Simons. He was in charge of an American transport of cooks and supplies.

Under heavy firing from the shore—reminding Simons, he says, of the Fourth of July "except that they weren't shooting firecrackers"—he managed to get the cooks and pots and pans ashore in landing boats, and the first contingent of American troops to land had their dinner that night. Simons says it was nothing, really, simply that "the men who had gone ashore had to eat, so we made a special effort with the cooks."

Meanwhile, in a sector near St. Cloud, Algeria, Pfc. Harry Cohen was removing the garb of the clown, preparatory to playing a straight hero role. Private Cohen, who had been the ship's entertainer all the way to Algeria, sat in a machine-gun nest near St. Cloud where the Americans advancing on Oran met with some stiff resistance. According to an eyewitness, Harry saw several of his comrades killed. Whatever it was that sobered him, he picked up a .30 caliber machine gun and tore into a barrage of heavy enemy fire, spraying the enemy with bullets. Several men in his crew rushed to his aid, and he established an advanced position. When he ran out of ammunition, he returned in a donkey cart for some more, and the new gun position was maintained.

As if to symbolize the drama of divine retribution,

there is one story from the final days of the North African campaign that deserves retelling.

It was one of the days when the German armies,—the highly touted, “invincible” German armies,—were collapsing, were shouting their surrender, were hunting for the troops that would take them prisoner.

On one knoll on a strip of land east of Bizerte a party of American officers appeared, prepared to meet Nazi General Krause and staff. There was no let up in the fighting. Allied artillery was still sending screaming shells into enemy positions. But the outcome had already become clear.

There was General Krause, standing stiffly at attention. Overlooking a colonel who was among the group of American officers, he turned to a young American lieutenant. He saluted. Then he asked for the terms of surrender.

The answer came in a few clipped words: “Unconditional surrender. You have twenty minutes to decide.”

The Nazi general nodded, accepting the terms laid down to him by the twenty-three-year-old Signal Corps Lieutenant Albert Klein, of Waukegan, Illinois.

These boys and scores of thousands like them came from all walks of life. It was no surprise to read among many of the unfamiliar names in the occasional official stories about heroism, a name that rings a bell. You may not identify easily Corp. B. Ross of the U. S. Marines who now wears a Distinguished Service Cross but if you let your mind turn back to the sports section of your favorite newspaper, your memory may be jogged into recollection. For Corp. Barney Ross is the lad whose fighting career seemed behind him after he had captured the triple crown of lightweight, junior welterweight and the welter-

weight title. This time Barney is fighting another kind of battle and the prize is greater than ever.

What won Barney the D.S.C. was an episode on November 20th as told by correspondent Victor Wayne:

"It's Corp. Barney Ross and over his heart he now wears the Distinguished Service Cross—one of the highest honors given to a fighting lad in the United States Marines.

"The true facts have just been released by the Office of War Information and they read like something out of a Hollywood thriller. Above all else, it confutes the sceptics who said years ago that Barney was definitely through with the fight racket. One glance at the citation and you'll realize that capturing the triple crown—the lightweight championship, the junior welterweight title and the welterweight belt—was mere child's play. Today Barney is fighting for keeps and it seems that he has only just begun to fight.

"It all happened the night of November 20—less than a month ago. Barney was on patrol with a detachment of men when they ran smack into the advance units of a Japanese scouting party. Less than ten yards separated the men when the bullets began digging up the dirt. One of Barney's pals fell with a wound in his leg. Another was dropped with a bullet in his stomach. By the time Barney reached a fox hole, the third man in the quartette had been incapacitated with a bullet that drilled him through the knee.

"Barney helped all the wounded into his foxhole and then began fighting off the entire Japanese contingent himself. It was machine guns against Barney's rifle. Barney threw everything he could find at the Nippons and when his own ammunition ran out, the wounded lads helped him load theirs. But even this gave out after a while. Only a log separated them from perdition and the deep blue sea.

"In the morning—just about dawn—a stretcher bearer crawled up and with Barney's help was able to get the wounded back to safety. That return trek was no picnic. Every five or six yards they had to fall flat on the earth—and thus walking, crawling, flopping—they dragged themselves back to the Marines.

" 'After we ran out of ammunition we prayed and we prayed for a solid hour before that stretcher bearer came up.' Of course, Barney's C.O. made him a corporal immediately and the citation for the D.S.C. was delivered immediately. But Barney was much too sick to hear all those nice things.

"Only the other day, a laconic dispatch from the Navy Department revealed that 'Barney Ross, former champion fighter, is in a hospital on Guadalcanal recuperating from malaria, shell shock and shrapnel wounds.' Of course, we waited anxiously to get the full story and when it was revealed the thousands and thousands of fans who had cheered this scrappy young game-cock as a brilliant fighter in the resined area—stood up once again to give the dapper champ a toast.

"It's just a bit over a year ago that Barney Ross stepped up to the recruiting sergeant in Chicago and said 'I want to get into the Marines.' That was a day after Pearl Harbor. Barney was graying at the temples. He was an old man as fighters go—he was 33. His fighting days were over said the boxing experts . . . Over? Good gosh, folks, Barney's just begun to fight."

The unknowns and the headliners, they are all there, even as they were twenty-five years ago; for that matter even as the veterans of twenty-five years ago are still doing

their bit today. Witness Irving Berlin, one-time sergeant in the U. S. Army, whose revue, *This Is the Army*, has already yielded several million dollars to the Army relief funds. There are many other famous Jewish names in the American Hall of Fame. Before this war is over, the reports from the war fronts will bring out many new names which will be better known in the future. Some of them have already achieved high military rank, such as Major-Gen. Samuel Lawton, Major-Gen. Irving Philipson, Brig.-Gen. Julius Ochs Adler, Brig.-Gen. George Lubenoff, Brig.-Gen. John B. Rose and Rear Admiral Ben Moreell.

Others, having made the final sacrifice, will have no future beyond their commemoration in the hearts of their fellow Americans. Such a one was Hyman Epstein, about whom the newspapers carried the special dispatch from George Weller, a correspondent with the American Troops near Sanananda on Guadalcanal.

"He was one swell little guy." That's all his company will say about Hyman Epstein. They are still in line and living in waterfilled mudholes amidst sniping. When they mention Hyman's name, there is a tightening around the mouth and a vagueness of the eyes.

"In war I guess the best go first," says Maj. Bert Zeeff, of Grand Rapids. "That kid was the best."

This is the last 12 hours of Hymie Epstein's life as Zeeff tells it.

"We were sent out to carry rations to one of our units, cut off in the forest ahead of us. They had several dead and a number of wounded.

"Epstein was a medical aide. Medical aides are forbidden by the Geneva Convention to bear arms. Casualties among their ranks have been as high or higher than among

the fighting troops because when the Japs wound a man with sniping, they do not finish him off but wait for the medical aide man to come, and then get both.

"The Japs must have heard us creeping along because they moved a machine gun across our line of crawl. Then they got another there and had two converging lanes of fire directed upon our mudholes. Then they sent snipers around the sides so that they could pick us off where we were if we stopped moving. But we had to stop because it was getting dark and we could not see where we were going. Then they opened fire on us.

"Epstein, a small, slight youngster from Omaha, Neb., was lying at the major's side about three feet away to the right. Suddenly, a man about eight feet ahead was hit in the neck by a machine gun bullet.

"Both Epstein and myself saw him get it. But the Japs knew we were all there and kept their fire right in that spot. I would not order anyone to go out into that fire to get that man. It was just throwing one life after another.

"But this little Jewish kid crawls right from the mud to the wounded man. Epstein got out his sulfanilimide powder and bandages and, lying on his back, bound the wounded man's neck. Then he crawled back with bullets all around him.

"Just before darkness came down another man was hit in the head. Without any hesitation out crawled that kid again with his packet. He got to the man, rolled over and, lying on his back, bound up his head. I could not understand how he ever got back that time. The Japs simply poured fire around him. But he did get back."

All that night, the Americans hugged the mud as low as possible, while Japanese machine-gunners and snipers

systematically worked over the ground where they lay. Zeeff continued:

"You could hear the men talking all night. 'Did you see what little Epstein did?' they would say. Word had gone the whole length of the line in whispers. Then at dawn, the Japs began to get more accurate with their fire. A man over on the left was hit and word came that a medic was needed. Epstein crawled down the line. Five minutes later, word was passed up the line that he was dead.

"How they had finally got him was this:

"There was a badly wounded guy out there with fire all around him. Epstein went out and got him fixed. Then the Japs put in everything they had. Epstein could have crawled back but he chose to stick. He stayed a little too long.

"What I will always remember was the wounded man when he dragged himself in. It's not often you hear a soldier crying and he was a tough baby himself. He kept saying between sobs, 'Somebody's gotta go out there and take care of Epstein. Epstein's bleeding to death. Somebody's quick gotta go out and get Epstein.' Of course he was delirious. We could see that Epstein was already dead. But even in delirium and with his wound that guy felt worse about Epstein than about himself.

"We buried this man the next night and we buried Epstein by day as we pulled back through the forest. You never know who is going to be a good soldier and who isn't. But when they are handing honors around, you can give mine to little Hymie Epstein and that goes for all of us."

As if to symbolize this comradeship of arms, this integrated Americanism, comes a story that appeared on New

Year's Day. The story of three flyers killed while on duty, Catholic, Protestant and Jew, evoked the following editorial from the *New York Times*:

"Three American airmen died in line of duty in the take-off crash of a Navy plane in the harbor of San Juan, Puerto Rico, on the last day of the old year. They were Lt. Edward Mallory Vogel of Erwin, Tenn.; Issie Goldberg, attached to aviation ordnance, of the Bronx, and Edwin J. Sipowsky, aviation machinist's mate, of Waukegan, Ill. Last Wednesday they were buried side by side in the service cemetery in Santurce. Officers and members of their squadron carried the caskets. Every member of the squadron was present. A Protestant chaplain read the service for Vogel, a Catholic priest for Sipowsky, a Jewish rabbi for Goldberg. The flag for which they died flew over each of them. To each of them the Navy gave honor. Their three different religious faiths did not divide them. Their common faith, in their cause and in freedom, united them, as it unites all the millions who wear this country's uniform."

Of that same reverent and inspiring mold is the story of four Army chaplains aboard a cargo transport, torpedoed while in a North Atlantic convoy. There were two Protestants, Rev. George L. Fox and Rev. Clark V. Poling, and a Catholic, Rev. John P. Washington.

And there was the Jewish chaplain, Alexander Goode, born in Brooklyn, New York, and until he joined the Army, rabbi of a congregation at York, Pa.

The vessel was rapidly sinking under them.-

Calmly they handed their life preservers to members of the crew, prayed and went down to their deaths.

Their common faith, in their cause and in freedom, united them. What more can one say of an American soldier? And yet is this story so unusual, so different from what Americans are showing on every battle front at this moment? All who glory in the human spirit that has made this country great will know that it is just what we have come to expect from Americans. Here are the deeds of a few Americans who have earned distinction. And, as you read them, remember that this is just part of the story that began as recently as December 7, 1941 . . .

PFC. LOUIS SCHLEIFER, Air Mechanic Second Class, was the first American from the City of Newark to fall in this war. He was 21 years of age at the time of his death. He was posthumously awarded both the Silver Star and the Purple Heart for valor under fire at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.

The City of Newark has dedicated a park named Schleifer Memorial Park in his memory.

PVT. JACK H. FELDMAN was the first soldier from Philadelphia to fall in this war. Jack had been in the Air Corps a year before he was killed at Pearl Harbor. He was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart. His mother, Reba Feldman, after Jack's death, applied to a recruiting station and said simply: "I want to take up where Jack left off." They put her to work at the Quartermaster Depot, and she has been carrying on in that post since.

ENSIGN IRA JEFFERY, also killed in action at Pearl Harbor on December 7, was the first casualty of the war from Minneapolis. He has been cited posthumously for valor by Secretary Knox. During the attack on the Pearl Harbor fleet, Jeffery attempted, by hand, to main-

tain an ammunition supply to the anti-aircraft guns of the USS California.

The citation, signed by Secretary of Navy Frank Knox, reads: "For distinguished devotion to duty and extraordinary courage and disregard of his own safety during the attack on the fleet in Pearl Harbor, Territory of Hawaii, by Japanese forces on December 7, 1941, in organizing a party and attempting, by hand, to maintain an ammunition supply to the anti-aircraft guns of the USS California. For your praiseworthy conduct on this occasion, you are hereby commended."

A U. S. destroyer has been named in memory of Ensign Jeffery.

There have been several other Jewish "firsts" in this war. The first man from the State of Delaware to lose his life was Sgt. Harry Fineman. Kenneth Harold Messenger was Connecticut's, Capt. Ruben Iden, Detroit's first casualty, and the first body to be returned to the United States for burial from the Pacific battle zone was that of Marine Sgt. Herbert Kielson from Long Island.

MASTER SGT. MEYER LEVIN, 26, of Brooklyn, N. Y., killed in action on January 7, 1943. Before his death, Levin had received three decorations, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Silver Star and the Oak Leaf Cluster.

Sgt. Meyer Levin was the bombardier on the plane piloted by Capt. Colin Kelly and who launched bombs which destroyed the Japanese battleship, Haruna. During the Battle of Coral Sea, he did it again, making direct hits on a Japanese cargo ship. He made many spectacular and successful flights subsequently while attached to General MacArthur's Staff.

His death as his life was typical. When his plane was

forced down at sea, the last seen of Sergeant Meyer Levin was while he was putting together a life raft,—and yielding his place in it to his comrades. Posthumously he was awarded the Purple Heart. And again and again he has been honored by his fellow Americans. Indeed, his name now marks a room at West Point where Americans of generations to come may learn to know and honor him and his kind.

MAJ. ARTHUR E. HOFFMAN, 26, is a three-medal flyer, holding the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Silver Star and the Purple Heart. He was a member of General MacArthur's escort group on the general's epic escape to Australia. Major Hoffman has been on more than sixty combat missions against the Japanese in the Philippines, the Dutch East Indies, Australia, New Guinea, the Coral Sea, New Britain and Malaya. Two months before Pearl Harbor, his squadron in the first mass flight of its kind crossed the Pacific, landing at Clark Field.

Detailing the hardships they encountered, Major Hoffman told how missions had to go out without pursuit ship protection and perform their assignments against distressing odds. "Our supply of oxygen was obtained from a nearby brewery, which later was captured, leaving us without oxygen to undertake altitude flights." Nevertheless his squadron, in less than two weeks of Philippines fighting, engaged in 41 combat missions and achieved a remarkable record of enemy damage; destruction of six fighter planes, sinking of a battleship, sinking or damaging of ten transports, wrecking of harbor installations, beachheads and airports. Major Hoffman's individual efforts include a 1500-mile bombing mission from Darwin to Davao and a night mission against Rabaul. In 600 hours

of combat flying during eleven eventful months, he covered some 120,000 miles.

LT. MORRIS BERENSON, 24, of Garfield, N. J., fortress navigator, received the Air Medal and three Oak Leaf Clusters for his part in successful bombing raids over Tunis and Tripoli, and for disabling seven enemy craft in a Nazi-held port.

S/SGT. THEODORE L. BILLEN, 20, of Poughkeepsie, is one of our most decorated heroes, having six citations. An aerial engineer and gunner in the 19th Bombardment Command operating in the South Pacific, he won the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal, the Purple Heart, two squadron citations and a citation from Generals MacArthur and Kenney. His air combat experiences were presented in newspaper feature stories throughout the country.

LT. NORMAN SEGAL, 23, of New York City, has been decorated five times. He holds the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal and three Oak Leaf Clusters. Lt. Segal is a navigator. He has engaged in over 40 sorties against the enemy over Europe and North Africa.

MAJ. CARL J. LICHTER, of St. Paul, Minn., was at the controls of an unarmed commercial plane, some 25 miles from Clark Field, Philippines, when the Japs attacked it. When Major Lichter arrived at the field, he found it a mass of wreckage and destruction. He eluded the Jap air force for three days and got through to Bataan in a plane. He then fought on Bataan as an infantryman until March, 1942, when he set out with several others on a 2500 mile journey to Australia. He has gone out on at least 75 operational missions since then, and has been decorated with the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal, an Oak Leaf

Cluster, a unit (19th bombardment) citation and four Oak Leaf Clusters to the unit citation.

LT. EUGENE J. POLLOCK, 24, of New Orleans, has already accumulated seven decorations—the Distinguished Service Cross, the Air Medal and five Oak Leaf Clusters. Navigator of a Flying Fortress stationed in England, Lt. Pollock has participated in many air assaults over Europe.

LT. HAROLD A. RADETSKY, 24, of Denver, Colo., leader of an American Air Force bomber squadron operating in the North African area, holds the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal. Lieutenant Radetsky's squadron has a unique distinction in that it has made more than forty slashing assaults on German and Italian positions without incurring the loss of a single man or machine.

CAPT. GEORGE LAVEN, JR., 26, of San Antonio, Texas, received the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism against the Japanese invaders in the Aleutians. To accomplish his mission, Captain Laven had to fly more than 600 miles over open water before reaching the objective. While dropping his bombs over Kiska Harbor, he was under hot anti-aircraft flak. He has since been decorated with the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal and three Oak Leaf Clusters.

CAPT. MORRIS N. FRIEDMAN, of Grand Forks, S. D., received the Distinguished Flying Cross for his part in a trans-Pacific flight in which Capt. Colin Kelly and Sgt. Meyer Levin took part. He was awarded the Silver Star for action in the Philippines and Dutch East Indies, as a member of an army bomber command. He was pilot of the plane from which Meyer Levin sank a large Japanese cargo ship during the battle of Coral Sea.

FIRST LT. ROY BRIGHT, 27, of Eveleth, Minn.,

attached to the Army Air Corps, has received both the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Silver Star. In August, 1942, he was awarded the Silver Star for "gallantry in action" in the Pacific area. In September, 1942, he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for "completion of a dangerous mission over enemy territory" during the Battle of Midway. Since the war began, Lieutenant Bright has flown a distance equal to five times around the world. His main wish is "just to fly to Tokyo and back."

LT. PAUL L. SCHWARTZ, 24, of Syracuse, N. Y., has been decorated with the Distinguished Service Cross for "extraordinary heroism in action" in New Guinea. He was the leader of a fourteen-man American patrol which captured a native village from a greatly superior Jap force, destroyed a sizable cache of enemy arms and supplies, and then fought their way safely back to an Allied stronghold. He has also been awarded the Silver Star and the Purple Heart.

LT. HENRY MARK, of Los Angeles, Calif., killed in action, has been posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for valor in the Philippines. Lieutenant Mark was killed on December 24, 1941, while leading an attack against a Japanese flank. Capt. John Wheeler, his immediate superior reports that Lieutenant Mark heroically "led one attack, forcing the Japs to draw back a little. Then he himself went across an open rice field, with Japs pouring fire on him. Mark carried some grenades. He was going to try to throw them into the tanks, but a Jap machine gun, hidden in a tree, got him before he was 20 yards away." He has also been awarded the Purple Heart.

Lieutenant Mark's father, Abraham Mark, served forty years ago in the Philippines, under General Mac-

Arthur's father, covering the same ground during the Aguinaldo Rebellion that his son was to defend. The father's reaction to the message announcing his son's death, was to offer his services again to the Army. Mr. Mark has three more sons in service; Leonard, 23, with a tank battalion, Richard, 20, who will shortly graduate from the University of California as a reserve officer, and Melvin, 27, in the Army.

LT.-COM. SOLOMON S. ISQUITH, Navy Cross, for bravery at Pearl Harbor. According to Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, commander of the United States Pacific Fleet, Isquith saved 90 per cent of the crew of the sunken target ship Utah on December 7th, by "his cool and efficient manner of directing abandonment during the bombing attack."

LT.-COM. SAMUEL A. ISQUITH, a brother, directed the rescue of seven wounded sailors from the flaming cruiser Vincennes, sunk by the Japs in the Solomon Islands. Marooned in the aft battle dressing station of the fastly sinking ship, Commander Isquith, who was busy treating injured sailors, followed the sailors up on deck through an ammunition hatch which had been blown off, and then dived into the black water, the last man to leave the ship. Flashlight signals led him after an hour to three rafts. They were crowded with wounded survivors and there was no room for him. He clung to a six-inch piece of frayed line for five hours until rescued by an American destroyer after dawn. Immediately after boarding the rescue ship, Dr. Isquith shed his soggy suit and for six hours without stop treated at least 80 critically injured comrades. He was the only medical officer to survive. Two other brothers, Jacob

Isquith and Dr. John H. Isquith, saw service in World War I, and four nephews are now in the army.

COM. SAMUEL B. FRANKEL, 37, of Stapleton, S. I., was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal by Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox for "exceptionally meritorious service." The award was bestowed for his work as Assistant Naval Attache in Murmansk and Archangel, from November, 1941, to September, 1942. The citation accompanying the decoration reads "Under adverse conditions, he displayed extraordinary initiative and tireless energy in the direction of repairs to damaged United States vessels, in the salvaging of stranded and abandoned vessels, and in the supervision, rescue, hospitalization and repatriation of survivors of sunken vessels."

DAVID GOODMAN, Radioman 2nd Class, U. S. N., 22, of Brooklyn, N. Y., was a member of Lt. John D. Bulkeley's mosquito boat squadron which carried General MacArthur and President Quezon from Corregidor to Australia. For his part he received a Silver Star decoration. For a daring attack made by his squadron on April 8, 1942, resulting in damage to a Japanese cruiser in the Mindanao Sea, he also received the Oak Leaf Cluster.

David is listed as "missing in action."

MURRAY WEINRUB, Machinists Mate, 1st Class, U. S. N., of Los Angeles, who has been awarded the Silver Star by the War Department, and has received a letter of commendation from the Navy Department, for his part in a daring exploit made by an American submarine, of which he was a crew member, during the Battle of the Philippines. It is reported that Weinrub is the first man in the United States undersea fleet to be thus commended and decorated since Pearl Harbor.

S/SGT. ROBERT KESSLER, 21, of McKeesport, Pa., has been awarded four medals, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Silver Star, an Oak Leaf Cluster and the Air Medal. Sergeant Kessler is a radio operator and gunner aboard the B-24 Liberator "The Black Maria," and has piled up 349 combat hours over the Middle East. Completing 35 bombing missions, he has never missed any scheduled raid, even though he has been shot through the hand and his plane once landed in the Libyan desert.

T/SGT. JEROME MARCUS, 24, of Brooklyn, is another four-medal flier, holding the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal and two Oak Leaf Clusters. Sergeant Marcus is an aerial engineer aboard a Flying Fortress.

LT. ALLAN ROTHENBERG, U.S.N., 24, of Washington, D. C., was singled out by Secretary of the Navy Knox for special mention in awarding him the Navy Cross. He earned the Navy Cross for having torpedoed two Jap cruisers off Guadalcanal. He also holds the Navy Silver Star. Lieutenant Rothenberg was commander of a patrol plane during the battle of Midway and was one of the first pilots to make a night torpedo attack.

SGT. HOWARD CANTOR, 23, of Mt. Vernon, N. Y., won the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Silver Star, the Air Medal, an Oak Leaf Cluster, and a Citation from President Roosevelt for his work on more than 138 bombing missions, and for personally shooting down 9 zeros. From Pearl Harbor, where he was caught in the barracks at Hickam Field, Sergeant Cantor has seen 700 hours of air combat, through all the major campaigns in the Southwest Pacific.

LT. DAVID SACKNOFF, of Portland, Me., has been awarded the Air Medal and *seven* Oak Leaf Clusters. Lt. Sacknoff was the pilot of the Flying Fortress, "Snow White"

which had a miraculous escape after a raid over Germany. When the plane landed, inspection revealed the Nazis had hit her more than 500 times.

T/SGT. THEODORE GOLDBLUM, 24, of Philadelphia, who previously held the Silver Star and the Soldier's Medal, has been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for "extraordinary achievement" in Australia. In service almost four years, Sergeant Goldblum has had more than 200 hours of combat flying against the Japs.

This list of heroes is far from complete. Many more deserve mention and many other names will be added as the war continues. Here are a few more of the most recent: Corp. Alexander Zaretsky, of Cincinnati, holds the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Silver Star and the Air Medal; Lt. Martin M. Strauss (killed), of New York City, was awarded the Air Medal and three Oak Leaf Clusters, while his crewmate, S/Sgt. Joseph Spiro was also awarded the same four decorations; Lt. Jack Cohen of Brooklyn, won both the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal after downing 24 Jap planes; S/Sgt. Arthur Weitz, of Brooklyn, wears the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Silver Star and Air Medal; Capt. Sidney M. Richman, of Oshkosh, Wis., is proud of his Distinguished Flying Cross and Soldier's Medal; Lt. Jerome C. Simpson of New York City holds the Air Medal and three Oak Leaf Clusters.

Lt. Philip Gram, of St. Louis (missing) was honored with the Distinguished Flying Cross and Air Medal; S/Sgt. Arthur I. Berkovitz, of East Chicago, won the Air Medal and two Oak Leaf Clusters; Sgt. Schiller Cohen, of the Bronx, the Distinguished Flying Cross and Air Medal; Pvt. Oren Libson, of Minneapolis, the Distinguished Service

Medal and Purple Heart; Lt. Frederic Gans Altman of Little Rock, Ark., the Air Medal, the Silver Leaf Cluster and the Fourragere; Lt. Joseph Fink, of New York City, the Silver Star, the Croix de Guerre with Gold Star; S/Sgt. Benjamin Gordon, of Philadelphia, an Air Medal, an Oak Leaf Cluster and Purple Heart; Lt. George Berkowitz, of Dallas, Texas, a Silver Star, Purple Heart and 19th Bombardment group Citation; Capt. Albert Zipser, of Milwaukee, the Distinguished Flying Cross and Air Medal; Lt. Manford C. Susmen, of Houston, Texas, the Distinguished Flying Cross and Air Medal; Sgt. Harry Goldstein, the Distinguished Flying Cross, Oak Leaf Cluster and Air Medal; Lt. Norman Davis, of New York City, the Distinguished Flying Cross and Air Medal; Lt. Emanuel Snitkin, of Newark, N. J., the Silver Star and Oak Leaf Cluster.

But it is not always official recognition which makes a hero. There are many unique and dramatic exploits of heroism that are already a part of the American saga, some of which are well worth retelling:

Burton Furman's job on the aircraft carrier Lexington during the battle of the Coral Sea was to sit beside a leaking gasoline tank in the Chief's quarters and warn the crew to keep away.

"This baby is liable to explode at any minute," he told shipmates who came too close. "Better keep away."

The tank exploded and because the crew had been warned to keep its distance, nobody was killed. Nobody . . . except Burton J. Furman, storekeeper 3rd class.

There were seven on the Lexington who were buddies. Burt was one. When the clatter of battle died away, only two were left. They were Max Kaplan and Billy Barrett,

storekeepers 2nd class. Shortly after the sinking, they told the story to the Furman family in New York.

"We're sure he didn't suffer," they said. "Probably didn't even know what hit him. Playing nursemaid to that leaking tank was his job, and what a job he did."

Ninety-two percent of the Lexington crew was saved that day. Credit Burton J. Furman, a youth just five months out of college, with a good share of that figure.

Lt. Gabriel Frumkin, Memphis, Tenn., has destroyed five Jap planes, has had his plane shot down three times and has been wounded once.

While piloting a plane on a bombing mission to Balikpapan, Lieutenant Frumkin's ship was attacked by fifteen Jap Zeros. Reporting the incident, he said that "the gunners in my ship downed five of those fighters. Our ship was hit by two explosive shells but we managed to stay up. Then the ship caught fire from an oil line broken in the flight. We thought we might have to bail out into the ocean but we sighted a small island. Under orders, the five enlisted men in the crew jumped. Then the co-pilot and I made a crash landing on the beach and put out the fire."

Frumkin's second forced landing took place off the north coast of Java after his ship had been attacked by five Jap fighters. Again coming down on a small island, the crew managed to repair the ship after a week's work. With the help of natives, they improvised a runway and took off. A few weeks later he was shot down the third time. On this occasion his plane sank deep in the mud. Succeeding in freeing the ship he was preparing to take off when a passing formation of Jap planes bombed them. Frumkin was wounded. The plane, however, was not dam-

aged and the crew took to the air, returned to the base and hustled Frumkin to a hospital. Recovering he flew to Australia and joined MacArthur's forces, where he is still on active duty. Lieutenant Frumkin enlisted a year ago. He is married and has a son.

In 1936, as a student at New York University, Isaac Strauss was the star diver on the varsity swimming team. Six years later, on the night of February 18, 1942, Strauss attempted to prove that he could dive just as well into a churning sea as into a calm pool. That the dive never was made was not Strauss's fault.

The USS Pollux and the destroyer Truxton had foundered on the Newfoundland reefs during a gale of snow and sleet. Eventually the crews were saved by a third ship, but between the crash and the rescue, Strauss's acrobatics on a rope and an attempted headlong dive into the ocean helped sustain the morale of both crews.

Strauss first attempted to go hand over hand along an untested line which had been tossed from his ship and hooked to a rock on shore. His mission was not to land, but to determine whether that rope could hold a man's weight. He was halfway across when observers on board noticed the hook on the rock beginning to slip. Strauss was called back.

Then he offered to dive into the sea, wade ashore, and fasten the hook securely to the rock. He was poised on the boom of the ship ready to dive when his commanding officer recalled him again. The job was too hazardous, he said. Strauss pleaded for the chance, but his orders were to stay put. Strauss was among those saved.

His commanding officer listed him as deserving special

mention for bravery in action. Strauss's first reaction was, "They should have let me make that dive."

The commander of the destroyer had been killed during the Jap attack on Pearl Harbor. The only remaining officers were four ensigns. While the destroyer remained in the harbor, it was no good to anyone but the Japs. But there was plenty it could do in the open Pacific and that is exactly where the ensigns took it.

At the head of the crew was Ensign Stanley Caplan, of Elmira, N. Y. He had been in the Navy only eight months, but as senior officer he took that destroyer on a 36-hour tour of destruction and handled it as if it were part of him. Four Jap planes disputed the right of way and they went smoking into the sea. Two Jap submarines tried to belly up from below, but depth bombs put them in their place—at the bottom of the Pacific.

Suddenly the live warhead of a torpedo fired from above landed on the deck of the destroyer. Ensign Milton Moldafsky pounced on it and heaved it into the ocean barely seconds before it exploded. Then he returned to his gun and started punching again. The destroyer made its way back to port after hurling hundreds of pounds of high explosive shells and thousands of rounds of machine gun bullets where they would do the most good.

Caplan, the leader on the daring foray, earned an official citation from Navy Secretary Knox for his coolness and daring. "He responded in a most outstanding manner to the situation," Knox said. "He and the others met all emergencies and operated the ship like veterans." Moldafsky was one of "the others." Today Stanley Caplan is no longer an ensign. He has been on almost continuous duty in the

Pacific since Pearl Harbor and has been promoted to lieutenant commander.

Three men and a machine gun lay in wait for the Japs on the Solomon Islands late in August. The men were Pvts. Albert A. Schmidt, Johnny Rivers and Corp. LeRoy Diamond, a Jewish lad from New York City. They knew that the Japs had made elaborate preparations for the attack.

Suddenly a few scattered shots were fired. Then across the river a huge, bobbing mass that looked like a herd of cattle scurried down into the stream. The Japs were starting to cross. What follows is the story of Private Schmidt, Rivers and Corporal Diamond, and how, on that night in the Solomons, they killed 200 Japs.

Let Private Schmidt tell it:

"There were three of us at first," says Schmidt, but the Japs got Johnny Rivers. I grabbed the machine gun. Diamond, our squad leader, laid Johnny aside as best he could and started feeding the gun. Japs began to fall like flies. Diamond was working furiously loading the gun when they got him in the arm. He fell across my legs. He could hardly move, but he picked up his Riesing automatic and tried to work it with one hand.

"I thought I heard the movement of feet on the river bank just outside our little barricade of sandbags. Diamond sprayed the river bank with lead and the movements stopped. Then something struck me in the face. Everything became dark. I put my hand to my face and eyes. I felt blood and raw flesh.

"While we lay there motionless, the Japs managed to climb some trees behind us. They fired a steady downpour

of bullets that chipped dirt all around us, ripped through our sandbags and spattered oil into our wounds. Diamond kept saying, 'Keep down, keep down.'

"I was working around to get my .45 in my hand. When Diamond saw what I was doing he said, 'Don't shoot, Smitty. Don't shoot yourself.'

"I laughed and said I wouldn't. 'The first Jap that jumps in here will be on the receiving end of this .45,' I said.

" 'You can't see,' he said.

"He was right, I couldn't. I asked Diamond how Rivers was doing and he said 'O.K.' Later I learned he was just trying to spare my feelings. Finally, the firing stopped and our boys came and dragged us back. They counted about 200 Japs dead."

But the trio of fighting Americans paid a price, too. Rivers is dead. Schmidt is blinded. Only Diamond, proudly wearing his Navy Cross, will see action again.

On a September day in 1942, a Navy patrol bomber plunged into the North Atlantic. Ten of the crew of thirteen leaped into the sea as the craft began to crumble. Three stayed with the wreckage, hacking away at the life raft fastenings. They freed one rubber float, inflated it, and tossed it to the others thrashing about in the water. They loosened another and heaved it out, but it drifted away.

So the thirteen clung to the raft, took a pounding from the heavy sea, and suffered the added anguish of seeing two formations of planes fly overhead without being seen themselves. More hours of clinging followed before the men were sighted and rescued.

Home on leave came one of the three rescued flyers. He was Leonard S. Edelstein, aviation radioman first

class. With him he bore a memento of that experience in the icy North Atlantic—a set of blisters from his chest down to his toes. To parents and friends who asked why, Edelstein casually remarked, “Bad sunburn.”

A week at home and Edelstein returned to action. More than a month later, his parents received a Navy Department letter. Their son, Leonard, had been cited by Vice-Admiral Royal E. Ingersoll, for his “super-human efforts” in saving the lives of the crew. Not a word of the incident had been breathed while he was at home—this Leonard Edelstein of the brave heart and the tight lips.

A volley of Japanese flak tore through the belly of a Flying Fortress over Milne Bay, New Guinea. The bombardier slumped over his sight—dead. Shrapnel bit into the body of the navigator. An instant later another charge wounded the co-pilot and set the Fortress wallowing in the clouds 20,000 feet above the sea. Fog descended and the Fortress was separated from its squadron.

The pilot swung the ship about and headed homeward. But visibility was almost zero. The crew needed its navigator as never before. And he—Lt. David Hirsch, of Brooklyn—was badly wounded.

Blood oozing from a dozen wounds in his chest, Hirsch stayed with his maps and charts, steering the pilot in the right direction. He checked wind speed and direction, and kept the wobbling ship true to its course as he grew steadily weaker. The men on board didn't know it then, but at the base they had already been given up for lost.

Finally the field was sighted. The Fortress nosed downward and landed. As Hirsch's feet touched ground, he collapsed. He was rushed to a hospital, where, for

more than ten days, he lay in a serious condition. Today, fully recovered and back in the fray, he wears the Order of the Purple Heart.

Responsible for killing 132 Japs is Marine hero, Jack Sugarman of Media, Penna., who was awarded the Navy Cross for extraordinary heroism in Guadalcanal last fall. The achievement of Private First-class Sugarman is perhaps unique in the war so far and his citation deserves to be known. It reads as follows:

"For extraordinary heroism during action against enemy Japanese forces in the Solomon Islands area on Oct. 24-25, 1942. Serving with the 1st Marine Division, during a mass frontal attack by a numerically superior enemy force, Pvt. f. c. Sugarman, with his gun temporarily out of action and his position threatened by hostile troops, removed the weapon and with the aid of a comrade, repaired and placed it back in action under heavy fire. On four separate occasions he saved the gun from capture, repaired it under fire and continued to maintain effective resistance against masses of attacking Japanese. By his skill and determination, he inflicted heavy casualties upon the enemy and helped prevent a break-through in our line, which at that time, was weakly held by a small group of riflemen."

He is reported to have also saved the lives of nine American officers. Two years ago young Sugarman who is now only 20, was captain of his football team at Media High School; for a year he was a student at Temple University before enlisting in the Marine Corps. After the extraordinary feat which won him the citation, he was sent to an Australian hospital to recover from malaria.

Recently an American transport plane was forced down at a mountain village near the China-Tibet border, during a run on the India-China ferry service. The crew came upon a child, the eighteen-month-old daughter of a missionary, dying of bronchial pneumonia . . .

The boys quickly removed their oxygen tanks from the disabled plane and rigged up a crude oxygen mask with a hose and funnel.

This apparatus was used for three days, at the end of which time the crisis had passed and the little girl rallied.

She is the daughter of Harry Fisher, British missionary whose wife, the late Ann Andrews of Cleveland, Ohio, died in childbirth.

The names of the crew members? Lt. Lloyd Aronson of Norwalk, Conn., Lt. Bruce Kregerbaum of Dayton, Ohio, and Pvt. Murray Langer, of the Bronx, N. Y.

After being marooned for 14 days in the mountains, the boys were themselves rescued, when food and tools dropped from other planes enabled them to stay well-fed and eventually to repair the transport.

Meanwhile, in a different part of China, another Jewish young man, 21-year-old Lt. Morton Sher, of Greenville, S. C., was being feted by the pigmy natives of a Soje village never before visited by a foreigner.

Lieutenant Sher had been over Hong Kong one afternoon shooting down a Jap Zero. His plane, with three Zeros in pursuit, was forced down by engine trouble and landed on a small field. Chinese on the field quickly camouflaged the plane with grass and saved it from enemy machine gun fire. Suffering only from a head bump, the lieu-

tenant was removed to the Soje village where, despite the fact that he is only five feet five himself, he was regarded by the natives as a giant. Officials called upon him to speak at gatherings of 15,000—and even to sing. For songs he went through the Star Spangled Banner and whatever campus ditties he retained from his days at the University of Alabama. He was finally able to return to his base.

Tech. Sgt. Irving L. Fenster, ground crew chief at an American air base in Australia, was so eager to get up in the clouds for closer contact with the Japs, he did everything but sprout wings. Finally, he did get off the ground—by lying to his commanding officer. But when he landed all was forgiven. It had to be.

For Fenster had shot down a Zero after making faces at the Japanese pilot.

A plane was about to take off for a raid on Jap bases. Suddenly Fenster, breathless, ran up to Lt. Barrie Burnside, of Detroit.

"Change in orders," he gasped. "I'm to be taken on this trip."

Burnside helped Fenster into the plane. In the air a half hour later, his ship encountered a flotilla of Zeros. Fenster was just an extra passenger. There was another extra passenger—a machine gun. Fenster pointed it at the foe. While he fired, he made faces at the Jap pilot he had selected as his particular target. The Jap plane came closer and Fenster let him have it.

Fenster's trick had been discovered by the time the plane landed. Waiting for him was a man-sized calling down from the base commander. Fenster, the crew told him, had shot down a Zero.

Fenster didn't get the scolding. Instead, the base commander said, "I ought to break his neck. I never gave him permission. Just imagine that son-of-a-gun. You know, I'm proud of that boy."

"On Labor Day, 1942, an American Flying Fortress left its base in England on a bombing mission over Germany. A few hours later, the giant ship was on its way home, its mission successfully completed. Leaving Rotterdam, the Fortress swept on toward England—and ran squarely into a squadron of 15 German fighter planes. Sgt. Julius L. Kleiman, of Staten Island, N. Y., was the ball turret gunner. He fought off attack after attack. Three of the Nazi planes went down, and the squadron began to break up. The Flying Fortress was hit 2000 times but every second the plane was getting closer to safety. The cliffs of England were visible when a lone German fighter zoomed down on the bomber for a final try, before turning tail for Germany. Kleiman got it in his sights and there was a terrific burst of cross fire. The Nazi plane went down smoking into the sea and the bomber was safe. None of the crew had been injured except Sergeant Kleiman. He had been killed in that last exchange of gun-fire."

As in previous wars, boys in their teens are trying to serve their country. Is Norman Saul, 14, our youngest soldier? Norman's three brothers, Dan, Ben and Irving were already in service, and Charles, 19, was talking of joining. Norman got tired of hearing his folks and friends talking about his brothers in service, so he decided to do something about it. He took brother Charles' birth certificate, signed the guardian slip himself, and enlisted at the

nearest recruiting station. The Navy was kind to this brave youth, permitted him to stay until his training period was over, and then gave him an honorable discharge.

The Saul family with four sons in the service, must, however, definitely defer in numbers to the Liberman family of Manistique, Michigan, the Grossmans of Pittsburgh and the Scolnick's of Brooklyn, each of whom have contributed seven sons to the nation's armed forces, and the Podolskys of Philadelphia and Golds of the Bronx, with six sons each, and to several others with five sons serving.

Not only in heroics does the comradeship of men of all faiths express itself. Milton Weill, of the Jewish Welfare Board, himself a war veteran and now overwhelmingly devoted to war work, tells some typical stories of the comradeship behind the lines and at camps.

There is the incident of the young Jewish corporal, from Fort Adams, R. I., who volunteered to sing in Protestant Chaplain Earl Sidler's choir every Sunday morning at church services. Chaplain Sidler in a letter to the Jewish Welfare Board reported "A gesture like this is far better than all the books and lectures written on religious tolerance in the results it obtains. The spirit of that Jewish young man has left a deep impression."

There is the incident at Temple, Texas. The small Jewish community of Temple had engaged a public hall for High Holy Day Services for the men in the nearby camp. No other facilities were available. Rev. Garland Shall, Pastor of the Grace Presbyterian Church, came to the rescue and offered the auditorium of his church. Thus did several hundred servicemen worship on Rosh Hashonah eve in a Christian Church.

There is the Presbyterian Church in Ireland that offered its facilities for worship to Jewish boys in the A.E.F. during the High Holy Days, because there were not enough synagogues around to take care of the tremendously large number of Jewish boys stationed there.

And there is the magnificent spirit displayed by Jewish servicemen, who for the past three years have been giving up their weekend leaves so that their Christian buddies might have an opportunity to celebrate their Christmas holiday either at home or in camp free of military duties.

There is the incident of Chaplain Lang, a Christian chaplain at Camp Edwards, Mass. Late one night he visited the base hospital there. One of the Jewish boys who was to be operated on the following morning requested a prayer book. The chaplain not only found him one, but flashed his light on the correct page and told the boy to proceed. "Sir," said the ill man, "I am Orthodox—would it be possible to get a hat?" Chaplain Lang, removed his own hat and reverently placing it on the boy's head said "Go ahead, son, now you can pray."

There is the case of Sgt. Harry Fineman, the first boy of any faith from the state of Delaware to give his life to his country. The whole state paid homage to this Jewish boy. The Mayor of his city and the Governor of his state appeared on a national radio program dramatizing his sacrifice. And at the public memorial services for him, held in the public square of Wilmington, Father Tucker, a Catholic priest of that city, said these words, "The thought of many hearts that are revealed here today are the conscious expressions of the hidden love we Americans have for one another as members of the same family, and of our open hatred of hate for any man. A Jew dies for Christians.

It was a Jew who said "No greater love hath a man than that he lay down his life for his friends." We Christians, who unworthily follow that Jew, believing him to be God's very son, can answer the challenge in only one way. We Christians shall lay down our lives for our Jewish brethren as for all others that all may live and be free and pursue happiness."

And with a touch of humor there is the story, reported from Paterson, N. J., where an Italian chef cooked the food for a special dinner sponsored by a Jewish soldier at the home of an Irish couple, with the dinner attended by a staff sergeant of German extraction.

Here, we see Protestant, Catholic and Jew, both lay and cleric, working side by side in a harmonious inter-related way; where we see inter-faith no longer preached but actually practiced. These are significant trends. They are encouraging signs to those of us who have been occasionally depressed by actions of some in the outside world.

In every one of these stories and in thousands more that may never be told, the lie is given to the foul anti-Jewish propaganda of the Nazis. The eye-witness reports of their comrades-in-arms rise up to refute the aspersions on the patriotism of Jews. And American military leaders confirm the testimony of the rank and file in the following statements:

ROBERT P. PATTERSON, Under-Secretary of War: "We who have in charge America's vast preparation for the ultimate victory of the United Nations know also with what zeal and untiring energy American Jewry is contributing to that preparation."

FRANK KNOX, Secretary of the Navy: "All of us have watched with deep admiration the faith and courage of the

Jews under the most terrible ordeal in their existence. Today, from the blue reaches of the Pacific to the bitter, ice-bound wastes of the Arctic, free men are marching to the liberation of the world. These are men of all faiths, and they march as brothers in a great, common resolve. Believe with me there is no combination of despotism that can resist our joint effort . . . a David has arisen, and the Philistines are doomed."

ADMIRAL WILLIAM F. HALSEY: "The Jewish heritage has been one of suffering and sorrow. Jews have always fought against oppression, seeking freedom for themselves and for all peoples. Today the whole civilized world fights against history's greatest tyrants and oppressors. We are proud to have Jews in our ranks. Their deeds furnish unshakable proof of their courage and loyalty to our common cause—the world-wide preservation of freedom."

GENERAL DOUGLAS MACARTHUR: "Every page of American history belies the enemy claim that one race is superior to another. That doctrine is as wrong morally as it is false scientifically. In peace and in war our country's noblest tradition as well as the best security for our future is the doctrine that each citizen shall be weighed on his merits and not by his inheritance.

"The searing fires of this war have again and again put to the test the fighting qualities of our men and women. As Colin Kelly and his bombardier, Meyer Levin, so well exemplified, we have met the challenge, whether Catholic or Protestant, Jew or Gentile. I am proud to join in saluting the memory of fallen American heroes of Jewish faith."

Perhaps the finest tribute of all was paid by Gerald W. Johnson, writing in the *Baltimore Sun* on the "Right to Pay Tribute," who had this to say:

"The Navy Department announced this week that Ensign Edward Irving Kohn, of Baltimore, is missing in action.

"I did not have the honor of Ensign Kohn's acquaintance, and I have not talked to anyone who did, but I know everything about him that matters. He was a young American. He did his duty. He is missing in action. What else counts?

"This information is enough to establish the fact that he is entitled to honor and praise from every American citizen, as are all his comrades who are defending us at the risk, and all too often at the sacrifice, of their lives. But there is a reason for singling out this man for special tribute. This reason is not based on his personal qualities, for I do not know them, nor because he was conspicuously braver than many others for I do not know that, either. The reason is the fact that I am permitted to praise Ensign Kohn only because I am a free man in a free country.

"If he had served Germany or Italy, or Spain, or even horrible to relate, present-day France, as faithfully as he served the United States, and had been reported missing in action, it would not have been permissible for a newspaper to say one word in his honor. For he was a Jew.

"It is only in a free nation that a man may publicly salute the brave and honorable, no matter who they are. Slaves must first stop and consider the prejudices of the master; and if the master so orders they must deny truth, repudiate worth, insult valor. Only the free can honor the

valiant always and everywhere; so it should be their delight, as well as their duty, to do so.

"Is this not, in the last analysis, the very core and essence of that which we defend under the vague name of 'the American way of life?' We fight in part, to defend our homes and possessions, of course; but property alone, even hearth and home, was never worth the sacrifice of a man's life. We fight, in part, to defend our form of government, but we know by sad experience that in the hands of rascals it can be as rascally as any other form. We fight, in part, to maintain the opportunities of our children, but even as ruthless a tyrant as Peter the Great could, and did, 'open the career to talent.'

"But mainly we fight for the right to recognize excellence wherever it may be found, and to exalt it, regardless of its source."

In this tribute to one of a vast galaxy of American Jews there is embedded the greatest of all tributes to the American tradition.

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